

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2002

THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

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LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JUNE 6, 2002

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 6, 2002

Chairman Thomas M. Gattle, Jr. presiding.

Bill Busbice
Terry Denmon
Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Wayne Sagrera
Jerry Stone

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **May 2, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Denmon and seconded by Commissioner Stone. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. Jerry McComb with Senator Rob Marionneaux's office to give a few comments on the Senator's behalf. Mr. McComb began apologizing for the Senator not being able to attend the meeting since the Legislation is in session. The comments were related to the 6 point proposed rule in Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Mr. McComb stated the Senator is opposed to the proposed rule as it relates to just those three parishes but may be in favor of it on a statewide basis. Then he felt it was not fair to exempt the Sherburne WMA from the proposed rule. Mr. McComb then commented, based on his own opinion, that they have imposed a 6 point or better rule on land his family has purchased. They have also made the discretion to allow certain family members or youth that have never shot deer to take something under that 6 point rule. Also Mr. McComb felt it was unfair to the Enforcement agents that may have to enforce the proposed rule. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. McComb and said to express to the Senator that his opinion was duly noted.

Representative Bobby Faucheux was unable to attend the meeting for his item, **Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session.**

Discussion of Import Restrictions on Foreign Shrimp was handled by Chairman Gattle. At the last meeting, several Legislators spoke to the Commission on the concern with shrimp and the economic condition of the shrimper. The Commission expressed to the Legislators that they support the industry and are concerned with the problems they are facing. The first resolution discusses support of legislation to impose a small tax similar to the 15 cents per barrel on all shrimp caught in this State and place that tax on both the imported and the domestic shrimp. Chairman Gattle felt this resolution was supported by the Department since it will help monitor and keep track of the imported shrimp coming into Louisiana. So basically the first resolution would help monitor and track the importation of shrimp. The second resolution addresses the use of chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics on imported shrimp. House Resolutions passed during the session has expressed concern by the public on the use of this chemical. The Department of Agriculture has tested shrimp from China and are finding this chemical on their shrimp. Mr. Don Puckett advised the Chairman he should read the resolutions for the record. After reading the first resolution on monitoring and tracking shrimp, Commissioner Busbice asked if House Bills 240 and 241 passed? Mr. Puckett stated the Bill Locator indicated House Bill 240 was heard in Committee on May 22, but has not moved to the House Floor. House Bill 241 passed the House and was sent to the Senate Committee. Chairman Gattle then asked the Commission to approve the resolution. Commissioner Busbice made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Sagraera seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Chairman Gattle then read the second resolution on chemical use in shrimp. Commissioner Felterman made a motion to adopt the resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Stone. This motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolutions
are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 6, 2002

WHEREAS, current regulations only accommodate the monitoring and tracking of shrimp harvested domestically.

WHEREAS, imported shrimp numbers have been increasing nationwide over the past several years.

WHEREAS, it is important for the State of Louisiana to track and monitor the importation of shrimp from other countries for economic and health reasons.

WHEREAS, monitoring and tracking imported shrimp will enhance the enforceability required to adequately monitor harvest, track, prevent mislabeling, commingling, smuggling, false reporting and under reporting of domestically harvested Louisiana shrimp.

WHEREAS, additional revenue in the form of an import tax or excise tax or other revenue-generating mechanism will be necessary in order to accomplish this end.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby evidences its support for efforts of the Louisiana Legislature to pass statutes which will enhance the ability of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to monitor and track imported shrimp, including, but not limited to, House Bills 240 and 241.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby urges the Louisiana Legislature to assist the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by levying only those taxes or revenues necessary for this increased activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

WHEREAS, chloramphenicol is an antibiotic used in some countries in connection with the production of shrimp and other seafood products.

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of chloramphenicol in animals which are raised for human consumption.

WHEREAS, in January of 2002, the European Union banned imported Chinese products intended for human consumption or for use in animal feed, as a result of the discovery of chloramphenicol residues in seafood products harvested from and produced in that country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supports all efforts of the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, the United States Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and all other appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics, and to protect the citizens of Louisiana and the United States from same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, as well as to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees was put on the agenda by Commissioner Sagrera. He began stating he was approached by the Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association and they asked

that results of a survey on tag fees and expenditures be presented to the Commission. He then asked the Secretary of the Association to present the results of the survey.

Mr. Mark Shirley, Secretary of the Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association, presented results of an opinion poll from licensed alligator farmers in the State on the Commission's proposed rule to lower the alligator tag fees. During 2001, over 218,000 skins were supplied to the world exotic leather trade from Louisiana. This industry funds the alligator management program through tag fees, severance taxes and license fees. The issue is that more than enough money is being generated for the alligator management program. The excess money is deposited into the Alligator Resource Fund and is then allocated to other projects by the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. The survey included 28 farmers which accounts for 95 percent of the farm production. Of those surveyed, 100 percent would like to see the tag fee reduced. Another question asked was should the money be used to fund anything besides the Department's program and two-thirds answered no, it should go as mandated. Of those that answered yes, only 2 felt the money should be spent on limited marketing efforts; 5 said some money should be spent on educational materials; 12 felt money should be spent to send Department personnel to the CITES meetings; and 4 farmers felt the money should be spent on farm-related research whether done by the Department or Universities. The last question dealt with representation on the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. Currently only 2 members of the 11 members are alligator farmers. The farmers felt the Council should be restructured to reflect the proportion of contributions made to the Alligator Resource Fund. Over 85 percent of the fees deposited into the fund have come from farmers in recent years. Summarizing, Mr. Shirley noted the farmers are willing to continue to support the alligator program through the payment of tag fees, but does not want to pay excessive tag fees. He then asked the Commission to support the restructuring of the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council or develop a more equitable way to represent the farming industry when it comes to spending the money. Commissioner Busbice asked how much fee is collected for each skin? Mr. Shirley stated there is a \$4 tag fee per skin. Then Commissioner Busbice asked what was the value of the skins? Commissioner Sagrera stated skins are going between \$70 and \$75 each, so this equals to about a 5-6 percent fee on each alligator. Commissioner Busbice asked if there are other states Louisiana competes with? Commissioner Sagrera stated the biggest competition comes from the foreigners, but there is production in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Texas. Mr. Phil Bowman

stated he does not know the fees charged by the other states, but they all have to be tagged. In reference to the market, he said it was an international market. Mr. Shirley stated Louisiana is the biggest producer of the American alligator. Commissioner Denmon asked if the basic issue was the \$4 tag fee generated more money than was needed for the authorized activities? Mr. Shirley answered yes. Chairman Gattle asked if the Notice of Intent reduced the tag fee to \$3 and was it still in discussion period? Commissioner Segrera asked what was the current surplus? Mr. Bowman stated there will be \$2.4 million carried forward in the fund this year. Commissioner Stone asked how much would the reduction drop the fund by? Mr. Bowman stated it should reduce the fund by \$500,000 over a 2 year period. Commissioner Stone then asked what is the "comfort level" required? Mr. Bowman stated they suggested the fund should not drop below \$1.5 million. Commissioner Segrera asked Mr. Bowman what was the budget today? Mr. Bowman noted to run the management side of the program is about \$650,000. Then if an inflation factor was included in that over the next 5-6 years, that figure would be above \$800,000. From that fund, another \$400,000 is budgeted for the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. Also, federal funds are being solicited for a number of activities, one of which is working with LSU Vet School looking at diseases that may impact alligators. If this does not work out, then an additional \$100,000 may come from the Alligator Resource Fund to start this project. If you add that all together along with the \$1 suspension in the tag fee, you would be around \$1.5 million or below by 2004 or 2005. However, if you would go with a \$2 suspension, you would get to the \$1.5 million level 18 months quicker. Mr. Bowman stated litigation has been filed against the Department on the use of this fund and the outcome will affect whether or not revenue from the fund can be used for certain activities. He added that the Department does not recommend a further reduction in the fund. Commissioner Busbice asked what would happen if the tag fee was reduced by \$1.50 as a compromise? Again Mr. Bowman stated the fund would be reduced quicker than if left at \$1. Commissioner Segrera corrected the figure of skins from last year should have been 280,000 which would have generated about \$1.2 million at the present level. Chairman Gattle asked if the Council spends all of their \$400,000 budget? Mr. Bowman answered no, not to this point. Then Chairman Gattle asked what has been their actual expenditures for the last few years? Mr. Bowman stated in 1999, actual expenditures were \$174,000; in 2000 - \$347,000; 2001 - about \$300,000 and this year about \$300,000. Commissioner Denmon asked if there was a reason for the jump between 1999 and 2000? Mr. Bowman stated it was due to the

different programs the Council recommended as it related to marketing and education projects. Chairman Gattle stated the numbers are not adding up very well to him. He then stated he wanted to know how the Department ended with a surplus in the first place. Mr. Bowman stated when this was first put into place, the alligator management program was funded by a different revenue source. Chairman Gattle asked Commissioner Sagrera if the point of the discussion was to see if the Notice of Intent could be changed from \$3 to \$2? Commissioner Sagrera answered yes, and added that when Act 1041 was passed, those funds were to be used to help defray the cost of the alligator program within the Fur & Refuge Division. We all knew the surplus was climbing higher and higher. According to the Notice of Intent, Commissioner Sagrera felt the Commission could come back within two years and reverse the action. He then noted, if the tag fee was reduced to \$2, the fund would be at the \$1.5 million level the Department wanted to maintain in two years.

Mr. Steele McAndrew, an alligator farmer, stated during the initial discussions on the tag fees, they were told the only way to use the tag fee was through the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. He stated there would only be two people on the Council and was assured that the farmers would be represented. The farmers agreed to cover any expenses by the Department through the tag fees. Mr. McAndrew felt they have been deceived on the dollar numbers from that account for years. He then stated that the farmers have never brought their problems to the Commission, they have always tried to handle them through the Department. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. McAndrew if he was in favor of reducing the tag fee another \$1 or was he in favor of more representation on the Council. Mr. McAndrew answered he was in favor of both.

Commissioner Stone asked who sets the Council. Mr. Bowman stated the Council is set in statute where the representatives should come from except that two are appointed by the Secretary from various organizations listed in the statute.

Mr. Darrell "Fats" Dupont, Chairman, Fur & Alligator Council, began stating the Louisiana Trappers and Hunters Association went to the Legislature to set up the Council years back. The reason for the Council's creation was things were going bad for the fur business and there was a need for help with that and the alligator business. At that time, there were no farmers. Mr. Dupont then stated the membership is broad, there are 2 alligator hunters, 2 alligator farmers, 1 alligator trapper, 1 alligator dealer, 1

farmer, 1 trapper dealer, 1 appointed by the Senate and 1 appointed by the House of Representatives. Then Representative Randy Roach presented legislation which created the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund which included the \$4 tag fee with 2 members of the Ranchers Association being on the Council. Mr. Dupont assured the Commission they have tried to do their best but noted there have been disagreements on some issues. They have tried to do a lot of educational and marketing work with the available funds. One of biggest problem in the industry today is the crocodile is taking the lead over the alligators. The quality of the egg returns are not the best and this results in a degrade in prices when checked. He then stated he passed around a copy of the conclusion from the Alligator Task Force which was to hold the tag fee at \$4, continue the programs as they were, and try to reduce the return rate which was successful. Reducing the tag fee to \$3 was ideal and adequate to Mr. Dupont, but he felt reducing it to \$2 would hurt the industry. Chairman Gattle stated the Council has asked for an Attorney General's opinion to find out who has authority on how the money is spent. He then asked Mr. Dupont to explain why this is being done? Mr. Dupont stated the statute mentions that they should ensure that all funds are spent properly and they feel salary money may not be proper. Chairman Gattle then asked if they would like to have total authority on how the money is spent? Mr. Dupont feels the Council needs to have authority to know how they can spend the money and how they can talk to the Department. He said there has been a big increase in the cost of the Department's program over the years and some is justified, but they want authority to say how money should be spent even on the projects they want. Chairman Gattle asked about a pending lawsuit and if it is allowed to use funds to promote marketing? Mr. Dupont stated they are doing educational and marketing programs. The lawsuit refers to a mushroom case where fees collected were used for a marketing program which was illegal and another case which was legal referenced states using money in part for salaries, marketing and other areas. So, they have hired along with the State an attorney and are waiting to find out what the courts rule. Chairman Gattle stated in his industry, there was a soybean check-off and the Promotion Board could not make every farmer participate. Mr. Dupont stated this fund was not used strictly for marketing, it was used for salaries, 70 percent was used for the ranching industry and only 30 percent went to the wild side. He did admit the ranchers do generate the most money.

Mr. Phil Bowman stated, in reference to tag fees from other states, in 1999 in Florida, the alligator tag fee for an alligator

less than 7' was \$15, over 7' the fee was \$30. In Texas, the tag fee was \$10.

Mr. Ted Joanen, a representative for the Louisiana Landowners and Marketing Group, stated this group was formed about 5 years ago for the purpose of improving alligator hide quality by implementing a better harvesting technique and to develop and expand markets. Membership encompasses about 1.5 million acres of land. During the 2001 alligator season, the group handled about one-third of the production from the wild harvest. Mr. Joanen then mentioned he worked for the Department for 32 years and during his career he was in charge of the alligator program. He wanted to speak in opposition to the reduction of the tag fee to \$2 when the \$4 fee was needed to defray the cost of the program in the Department and to help maintain the Council's budget at the current funding level. The alligator program was a success story, being copied by many countries throughout the world. Last year, Louisiana produced and shipped 218,000 farm skins and 35,000 wild skins to foreign markets. Alligator meat produced as a by-product was about 1.3 million pounds. Economic impact of the alligator industry in Louisiana produces about \$54 million annually. Mr. Joanen then went back to the 1960's and explained how the alligator population was extremely low in the State. Between 1962 and 1972, the Department initiated a very intensive alligator research program which developed a management technique to manage the alligator as a renewable resource. During that time, the population blossomed and the Department decided to open one parish to a small harvest of alligators. Also in 1970 along with the wild harvest, the Department began intensive research programs on the alligator farming concept. Lacking areas for farmers to obtain legal alligators, the Department opened their refuges and provided stock for the farmers to begin their farms. In 1986, the concept of farmers picking up eggs began. In 1989, the \$4 tag fee went into effect and ranchers collected 182,000 eggs, hatched 137,000, returned 7,000 back to the wild and harvested 67,000 skins. Today, the ranchers collect 354,000 eggs, hatch 294,000 alligators and return 48,000 to the wild, and 218,000 skins were sold from the farms. The industry is growing at a tremendous rate compared to 1989 when the \$4 tag fee was implemented. Mr. Joanen felt the talk should be on increasing the tag fee and not decreasing it. He then added he does not know why there is a surplus in the fund, the Department has been frugal with the money and did not put it back into the industry as the Council preferred. He suggested spending the surplus money on marketing, research and educational programs through the Council.

Mr. Zachary Casey, Chairman of Pelts and Skins, stated he has been working for two years to bring down the tag fee. He has watched the Department's budget increase and has watched a surplus go from \$100,000 to \$2.4 million. Mr. Casey added he did not know of any program in the State where there was such a surplus. Pelts and Skins filed the lawsuit to test the constitutionality of generic marketing and forcing the company to spend money to market a product in a generic manner. The Department has done everything administratively possible to handle the problem, commented Mr. Casey. The last resort was to file in Federal Court a suit against Secretary Jenkins. The suit does not include the Fur & Alligator Council, the Commission or the Department. Mr. Casey then stated he spends \$300,000-\$400,000 on marketing and added he would like to see the tag fees back in his own pocket to help expand the industry. His company has entered into a contract with LSU to fund a weights and measures test to determine how much thawed alligator meat should weigh. Mentioning other contracts, Mr. Casey stated this is an issue of really hardworking people trying to get their own money back. He then noted he was willing to pay his way, but again asked that they not pay for surpluses and things they do not want. Finally, Mr. Casey asked that the tag fee be reduced to \$2 and to consider legislation which would put more representation by the farmers on the Fur & Alligator Council. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Casey if he wanted to reduce the tag fee to \$2 or to do away with the tag fee? Mr. Casey stated he was on the Alligator Task Force and argued to have the return rate reduced to 10 percent, but it went to 14 percent and to have the tag fee reduced to \$2 and it was not reduced at all. He felt there was a need to keep some money in the Department for the core services that are needed.

Ms. Christine Brewton, a marketing and education person for the Fur & Alligator Council, stated she has been in sales and marketing for 25 years. With being a representative for the Council, she has established over 150 clients internationally that want to know about exotics and alligator skins. Then she explained how she gets the information into the market by verifying that the alligator is off the endangered species list and encourages the buying of Louisiana alligators. Ms. Brewton talked about how she clarifies the comparisons between alligators to the cayman to the retailers.

Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to suspend \$2 of the \$4 tag fee, commencing in September 2002 and continuing for a period of 2 years or until the Commission takes further action. Chairman

Gattle asked if the motion was stated properly. Mr. Don Puckett stated this motion is announcing that the Notice of Intent would be changed when finalized. Commissioner Denmon seconded the motion. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department's recommendation was to leave the suspension at \$1? Chairman Gattle answered yes. Then he added that there are an Attorney General's opinion and a lawsuit pending that questions the constitutionality of the whole thing. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Felterman.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during May.

Region I - Minden - 167 citations and 27 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 91 citations and 12 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 172 citations and 12 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 78 citations and 17 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 172 citations and 2 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 241 citations and 33 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 322 citations and 20 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 278 citations and 9 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 210 citations and 42 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 29 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 32 citations.

SWEP - 39 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 91 citations and 7 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 1,922. Also there were 181 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for May 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 89.2 hours for enforcement and 11.8 hours for other divisions. Eight citations were issued. A total of 540 students were certified in hunter education in May.

Then Major LaCaze reported that on June 3, Region VIII agents assisted St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office in recovering the body of a robbery suspect. Also he noted boating accidents have been higher this year with 52 accidents occurring so far of which 18 were fatalities and another 19 were injuries. Commissioner Kelly commented he has stopped several youth and advised them on the proper way to ride and observe water skiers. He then suggested there be an educational spot shown to make people aware of these regulations. Major LaCaze stated there is a voluntary boaters course taught throughout the state now and every year the Department goes to the Legislature and tries to get it mandatory. He felt a public service announcement was a good idea.

Public Information Report for October 2001 through March 2002 was presented by Ms. Marianne Burke. She then stated a 5 minute video would be shown on activities by the Public Information Section from October 2001 through March 2002. It would cover the Publications Unit, the Media Unit, and the Library. Back in November 2001, the Section took charge of the Front Desk and began keeping a log of the assistance offered there. Since that time, 11,446 calls and 3,385 walk-in questions have been answered. At this point, the video was shown. Ms. Burke concluded explaining the different ways media coverage is handled and the responses received from the television stations.

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations**. Mr. Bruce Norris, Director of Public Affairs for the Beau Rivage Resort, stated he wanted to speak on the proposed ban of commercial activities at Pass-a-Loutre WMA. He noted the Beau Rivage operates a 5,000 square foot lodge during duck season near the WMA. During this past duck season, about 180 hunters were at the lodge and almost 90 percent were non-residents. The direct economic impact to the Venice area from this activity was \$60,000 from food, gas and other supplies as well as another \$22,000 from license fees. They calculate that an economic impact of \$100,000 to the Venice area may be gained if allowed to operate next year due to better marketing efforts and repeat customers. Mr. Norris felt the size of Pass-a-Loutre allows for its use by both recreational hunters and guided hunters. He respectfully

asked that commercial guides be allowed to continue at least on Pass-a-Loutre WMA.

Mr. Ronald Mack, from Ruston, stated he has been asked by the small game hunters to request the Commission extend the squirrel season from February 10 to February 28. This date is the same as what occurs in other southern states and coincides with the rabbit closure. Currently some areas only have 10 days of squirrel hunting without interfering with deer hunters. He advised that the sport of squirrel hunting with dogs has grown and continues to grow. A statewide petition requesting this extension was circulating and Mr. Mack stated he would be back to present this. Also Mr. Mack contacted the other southern states and asked the effect of a February 28 closing date, and the results showed none. Copies of those letters would also be provided. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Tommy Prickett if there was a biological reason for not extending the squirrel season until February 28? Mr. Prickett stated the squirrel season has been extended three times over the last 8 years trying to provide more small game opportunity. He then asked Mr. Mike Olinde to address the biological issue. Mr. Olinde stated they liked the second weekend in February as the closing date for two reasons. The first was due to the number of complaints received on squirrels having fully developed fetuses in them and this needed to be addressed. The second was on small wood lots and the populations of Bachman squirrels.

Mr. Gladney, from Baton Rouge, stated he has been hunting Pass-a-Loutre WMA for 20 years and was mind-boggled by the Beau Rivage's activities last year. His group did not understand how state-owned lands could allow commercial operations to occur on the public WMAs. He felt it was wrong for outside commercial activities to exploit our resources.

Mr. Dale Ducote, from Baton Rouge, stated he also has been hunting Pass-a-Loutre WMA for the past 20-25 years. He added he has never seen anything occur on the WMA like he has seen for the past two years with the Beau Rivage and other commercial guides on the area. Mr. Ducote noted the ducks do not have the opportunity to rest now since they are being pursued all of the time. Talking on the economic impacts to the area, he felt the impact of losing the Beau Rivage would be minute compared to repeat state hunters who buy locally. He suggested the Beau Rivage should lease lands to conduct their activities. Mr. Ducote ended by hoping the Commission will ban commercialized hunting on all WMAs.

Mr. Ray Bordelon, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, stated on the Department's website after the March meeting, they viewed the changes proposed on ATV's and agreed with these changes. But recently he has been swamped with phone calls on tire changes which he was not aware of and requested clarification. Mr. Prickett stated this change was in the original Notice of Intent and the proposed restriction for the tire size covers the largest size currently produced by any manufacturer placed on an ATV. Also this tire size covers 95 percent of the aftermarket tires. Mr. Bordelon stated he did not see anything in the papers or on the website about tire sizes.

Mr. Bobby Fulmer, New Roads, stated he wanted to speak against the 6 point rule for the three parishes as recommended by the Quality Deer Association. He felt that having a rule was a good thing, but felt the wrong deer would be shot. Mr. Fulmer thought the spikes should be shot instead of the 6 point deer. There are some deer that remain spikes, noted Mr. Fulmer. Then he stated there is nothing in the proposal that allows for the elimination of cow-horned spikes. Again, Mr. Fulmer suggested getting rid of the spikes would be better than shooting the 6 points.

Mr. Jerry Gobb, President of Hickory Creek Archery which are manufacturers of the Draw-Loc, stated this product is a great tool for impaired handicapped hunters. He then listed the states that this tool is allowed, but noted Louisiana does not allow it. The product has been on the market for 6 years with no reports of any injury at all. Then Mr. Gobb stated to Commissioner Busbice that the Department allows the use of crossbows and Commissioner Busbice agreed. But Mr. Gobb felt the handicapped hunter should be able to make a choice. Chairman Gattle stated the product makes it a vertical crossbow and he disagreed with it being legal for the entire state under all conditions. Then Chairman Gattle stated if the product would be used to assist the elderly or a handicapped person, then they may take another look at it. Mr. Gobb stated there are a lot of people from Louisiana who call him and want his product. Chairman Gattle stated they will take it under advisement.

Mr. Lee Cumin, Slidell, stated he would like to see the Draw-Loc allowed in Louisiana for handicapped hunters without having an extra big expense of buying a crossbow. He felt it was a good product and works well.

Mr. Luke Allen, a hunter in northern Pointe Coupee Parish, stated he was against the proposed 6 point rule. He also felt it should not be forced on any private landowner that may not want it. Having this regulation may hurt the young hunters in the future and again he asked the Commission to vote against the rule.

Mr. Russell Lantier, Bayou State Bowhunters Association, reminded the Commission that 85-90 percent of the Louisiana bowhunters are not interested in the Draw-Loc. He urged the Commission to remain status quo.

Mr. David Desarmier, a quality deer management manager in southeast Louisiana, stated in dealing with landowners and hunting clubs, he would like to see disabled or impaired hunters be allowed to use the Draw-Loc.

Chairman Gattle stated they had a petition in their packets on the opening of squirrel and deer season the same day. Mr. Prickett stated the muzzleloader season and squirrel season will open the same day. But the issue comes up of who do you ask to stay home? Some hunters in Area 2 asked for the early deer season structure like Area 3 but wanted to maintain the dog hunting days and so a new Area 8 was created. Unless the Commission wanted to cut a season, the Department recommended opening the squirrel season and muzzleloader season the same day. Chairman Gattle stated he was not asking for a change, he just wanted comment on the petition. Then the Chairman stated he was told by a southwest Louisiana organization that youth day hunting will open the same day as muzzleloader season and they wanted the youth hunt to open separate from the muzzleloader season. Mr. Prickett stated they would look into that request.

Mr. Tommy Prickett began the next agenda item, a **Ducks Unlimited Progress Report** by stating waterfowl and wetlands are very important to Louisiana. The Commission, Department, Legislature, and sportsmen and women have long supported land acquisition for enhancement and management directed at improving waterfowl and wetlands in Louisiana and the breeding grounds of Canada. One of the most productive partnerships has been with Ducks Unlimited and they came to report on some of the successes from this partnership. Mr. Prickett then introduced Mr. Ross Melinchuk, Director of Federal and State Coordination, Mr. Hugh Bateman, Director of Habitat Conservation and Mr. Chad Courville, Wetlands Biologist.

Mr. Ross Melinchuk thanked the Commission for the opportunity to report on the partnership with the Department. The presentation would center on the breeding grounds in Prairie Canada and within the state programs. A slide was shown on the habitat conditions in Prairie Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Alberta, there was a very late cold spring, virtually no runoff and a snow pack well below normal; but since the first of May, there has been some late winter storms but most just melted and went into the ground. Early counts indicate a reduced breeding effort with depressed habitat conditions but Mr. Melinchuk felt it was too early to draw any conclusions. Moving into Saskatchewan, the conditions are dry in the heartland. In Manitoba, there is a bright spot in the southwestern portion of the province. They are indicating pond counts are down 20-30 percent from last year. Slides on the British Columbia, Ontario and Eastern Canada breeding grounds were shown. The area just north of the U.S.-Canada border that produces a lot of waterfowl that comes down the Mississippi Flyway and ends up in Louisiana is known as the Prairie Pothole Region. This area is 300,000 square miles of habitat and has generated very productive waterfowl populations. Louisiana Band Recoveries indicate 60 percent of the birds that come to Louisiana come from Saskatchewan. The State of Louisiana has worked with the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies to set out how each state would contribute toward a \$10 million goal. This goal was based on waterfowl numbers and hunter harvest from the 1970's. A chart of contributions from Louisiana and neighboring states to help support work on the breeding grounds was shown. The Commission has contributed funds in support of the work in Prairie Canada every year since 1965 and Mr. Melinchuk expressed thanks for this support. Slides shown next were a map of the area where these contributions were spent, the waterfowl breeding density, and the landscape under ideal conditions. Over the next 20 years within this area, Ducks Unlimited would like to protect about 2 million acres of existing grassland and another 500,000 acres of wetlands associated with it. This project over the next 20 years may cost \$100 million in Canadian dollars. The State's contribution along with matching funds equals to about 5:1 match. These long term goals are going to continue needing the Department's commitment as shown in the past and Mr. Melinchuk hoped this would continue. He then asked Mr. Hugh Bateman to give a presentation on what has been happening in-state.

Mr. Bateman continued the slide presentation by giving a basic overview of what Ducks Unlimited does in Louisiana to support the Department and other partners in wetlands conservation. To date,

there are 93 DU chapters that hold over 160 fund raising events in the State. Most years funds raised equal about \$2.6-\$2.7 million. Conservation activities can be grouped into 5 major programs, stated Mr. Bateman. The first one to be explained was the MARSH program. Currently 29 of these projects have been completed in Louisiana which enhanced, protected or restored 45,000 wetland acres. Of those 29 projects, 25 were on Department property where public hunting occurs. The next program that works extensively with farmers and private landowners was the North Louisiana Waterfowl Project. This program offers private landowners technical assistance in what they need to do and how to maintain their lands for a period of 10 years. Mr. Courville is involved in the South Louisiana Waterfowl Project which began in 1999 and already has 9,400 acres enrolled. Ducks Unlimited began working on the Wetland Reserve Program in 1996 and to date, almost 43,000 acres of wetlands has been restored. This has become a very popular program for Ducks Unlimited. In 1999, Ducks Unlimited became involved in a program called Conservation Easements which is a legal based program where landowners can get tax breaks by agreeing not to develop their land. One of the most important programs Ducks Unlimited is involved in is the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. This program, which began in 1995, provides federal dollars to do different wetland projects. Total conservation effort by Ducks Unlimited in Louisiana was 23,418 acres for the past year. Mr. Bateman then stated Ducks Unlimited has found a way to play a role in raising awareness of the need for coastal restoration. Chairman Gattle asked if Ducks Unlimited resolved their problems with Agriculture over some political issues? Mr. Bateman answered yes. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. Bateman and Mr. Melinchuk for their reports. Mr. Prickett stated the Department has taken the old fashioned way to improve waterfowl habitat by taking care of it. The Legislature passed a bill a number of years back that dedicates a percentage of the basic resident hunting license to help with the breeding grounds. Also the Department has partnered with Ducks Unlimited on some expensive projects the Department otherwise would not have been able to do.

A Resolution on Dewey Wills WMA Expansion was handled by Mr. Randy Myers. The expansion would add 1,595 acres of state-owned property to Dewey Wills WMA which is located in Larto Lake in Catahoula Parish. This land is presently state land which is a dried lake bed. Act 86 of the 2001 Regular Session allowed for the transfer of 686 acres to the Department with the restriction no timber cutting would occur on this property. Act 32 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session allowed for an additional 900 acres to

be transferred to the Department with no restrictions. Once the resolution is approved, the lands will be included in the Dewey Wills WMA rules and regulations for hunting. Chairman Gattle asked about the restriction on timber cutting and who owns the private property shown on the map. He then stated the private property gives the WMA an unusual look as compared to other WMAs. Additional questions by Chairman Gattle were: is there access to the island and are there camps on the private property? Mr. Prickett answered, a boat was needed to get to the island and he thought there were 1 or 2 camps on the island. He then asked Mr. Myers to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Denmon asked why the two parcels do not allow for timber cutting? Mr. Myers stated during the first transfer, the Department did not have the time or opportunity to meet with Legislators and discuss the possibility of timber management. Mr. Bowman added that in that part of the state, there are concerns over the Department's timber harvest and the prohibition is a result of that concern. Chairman Gattle asked if these lands would be a good addition to the WMA program? Mr. Myers answered yes. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Myers to find out who owns the private property within the WMA. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to adopt the Resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. After hearing no public comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made
a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

ADDING CERTAIN STATE OWNED PROPERTY TO THE DEWEY WILLS
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
June 6, 2002

WHEREAS, there are presently 1595.72 acres of land, more or less, which are a part of an island located in Larto Lake, in Catahoula Parish, which are presently vacant state land and dried lake bed, all being owned by the state of Louisiana, which such property is more specifically described on the attached plat.

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable forested wetlands, the protection and proper management of which is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, pursuant to Act 86 of the Regular Session of 2001, sponsored by Senator Joe McPherson and Senator Noble Ellington, and Act 32 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session, sponsored by Senator Joe McPherson, Senator Noble Ellington, and Representative Tommy Wright, directed that this property be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Furthermore, pursuant to Act 86 of the Regular Session of 2001 no timber cutting is allowed on 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands that they be established as a wildlife management area and included in the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby select, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, the state owned land described above, comprised of 1595.72 acres, more or less, to be established as a Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be added to the existing Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area and subject to the rules and regulations promulgated for the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area, and that this property, pursuant to such rules and regulations, shall be dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall be no timber cutting allowed on the 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and the 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take whatever actions are necessary in furtherance of establishing this property as a Wildlife Management Area and adding it to the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Mr. Brandt Savoie hoped the next item, a **Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules & Regulations**, would help with coastal restoration. He then stated back in the 1960's, over 1 million nutria were being harvested, and then the demand dropped resulting in only 20,000 being harvested in 2000-01. In 1988, staff began observing open areas where nutria overgrazed wetland plants and now estimates show lost marshlands has increased from 50,000 to 100,000 acres. In April 2002, the Coastal Wetlands Planning and Protection and Restoration Act Task Force approved a coastwide nutria control program with \$2.2 million available annually for 5 years. Staff hopes 400,000 nutria will be harvested through this program. A fee of \$4 will be paid for each nutria tail. Mr. Savoie then went through various rules for the program. These included: the nutria will have to be taken from coastal Louisiana; a person will have to have a valid Louisiana trapping license in order to qualify; a person will have to have a tax receipt and description of the property along with signature of landowner or designated representative showing approval to hunt or trap nutria; a Nutria Control Program registration number will be issued when the landowner information is provided; nutria may be taken by any legal method, except if using a shotgun, steel shot must be used; coastal stations will be established across the coast; the severed tail must be delivered to these stations during a designated period; only fresh or well preserved whole tails 7 inches or greater in length will be taken; and the location, method

of take and use of carcass will have to be declared when delivered to the stations. Chairman Gattle asked why 7 inch tails? Mr. Savoie stated it was to keep trappers from using a pregnant nutria's babies. Commissioner Denmon asked where does the money come from? Mr. Savoie stated it comes from the Breaux bill which is a federally funded program to restore coastal wetlands. Commissioner Denmon then asked if the money was in the budget? Mr. Savoie stated it has been included in the budget the Legislature was currently working on. Finally, Commissioner Denmon asked if the program would be in place by the time the money was put in the budget? Mr. Savoie hoped the program would be ready for November when the trapping season begins. Hearing no further questions, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Savoie to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

- WHEREAS, the nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), a semi-aquatic rodent, native to South America, was placed in captivity in Louisiana during the late 1930's and was released or escaped into the state's coastal wetlands in the late 1930's, and
- WHEREAS, nutria rapidly spread across south Louisiana, first appearing in the fur harvest in 1943 and then by the late 1950's causing serious damage to rice and sugar cane, and
- WHEREAS, a demand for nutria fur developed in Germany and by 1962 the annual harvest was over one million. The harvest averaged 1.3 million pelts from 1962 through 1981. During this time the nutria was the backbone of the Louisiana fur industry peaking in value at \$25 million dollars during the late 1970's with nutria accounting for over \$15 million, and

WHEREAS, the demand for wild fur, including nutria, began declining as a result of changes in international markets. This reduction resulted in lower prices offered to trappers and resulted in a lower number of licensed trappers and effort. Thus, the harvest of nutria continued to drop during the late 1980's and through the 1990's, and

WHEREAS, in 1988 coastal land managers and department officials began observing open areas where nutria had overgrazed wetland plants; and based on aerial surveys during the 1990's, the number of acres impacted increased from 50,000 to 100,000, and

WHEREAS, in April 2002 the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force approved a Coastwide Nutria Control Program with \$2.2 million available annually for five years, and

WHEREAS, this Nutria Control Program is designed to encourage the harvest of 400,000 nutria annually by providing economic incentive through payments of \$4 per nutria tail to participants during the trapping season, and

WHEREAS, this program should significantly increase the number of trappers and effort and the number of nutria harvested and should reduce the total acres of damaged wetlands, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will implement, administer, and monitor the results of this program. The attached rules establish and regulate the Coastwide Nutria Control Program and are adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as a Notice of Intent.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertise its intent to establish a coastwide nutria control program.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§123. Coastwide Nutria Control Program

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby establish regulations governing participation in the coastwide nutria control program. The administrative responsibility for this program shall rest with the Department Secretary; the Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife; and the Fur and Refuge Division.

1. The coastwide nutria control program objective is to provide economic incentive, by payment of \$4 per nutria tail to participants, to encourage the harvest of up to 400,000 nutria annually from coastal Louisiana. For the purpose of this program, coastal Louisiana is bounded on the north by Interstate 10 from the Louisiana-Texas line to Baton Rouge, Interstate 12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell, and Interstate 10 to the Louisiana-Mississippi line.

2. Participant Application Process

a. Participants must acquire a valid Louisiana trapping license.

b. Participants must submit a completed nutria control program participant application to the department or its contractor.

c. To be considered complete, the application must contain the following information: name, address, telephone number, social security number, and trapping license number of applicant; tax receipt and a description of property to be trapped/hunted (acres, parish, township, range, section); name, address, and telephone number of landowner (private or public); signature of participant; and signature of landowner or designated representative indicating permission to hunt or trap nutria on the described property.

d. For applications determined to be complete and valid, the participant will be notified by mail that his/her registration is finalized and a nutria control program registration number will be issued.

e. The participant must indicate if an assistant will be delivering tails on his behalf to a collection center and the participant must provide the name of the assistant(s) on the application.

f. Applications submitted to the department or its contractor by October 1 shall be processed by the opening of trapping season. Applications submitted to the department or its contractor after October 1 shall be processed in the order received.

g. Applications listing only waterbodies, without signature of an adjacent landowner or designated representative, shall be considered incomplete.

h. Applications determined to be incomplete or invalid will be returned to the applicant with an explanation as to why registration could not be finalized.

3. Harvest of Nutria

a. Participants must possess a valid trapping license and a nutria control program registration number.

b. Only nutria harvested during the open trapping season, from coastal Louisiana and taken from property permitted can be included in this program.

c. Nutria may be taken by any legal method except that if taken with a shotgun, steel shot must be used.

4. Collection of Nutria Tails for Payment

a. Collection stations will be established across coastal Louisiana by the department or its contractor.

b. Evidence of nutria harvested shall be in the form of delivering severed nutria tails to a collection station during a designated period. Collections will begin on or about

November 20th. Specific dates and times of collections will be established and advertised for each station.

c. Participant or a designated assistant must present the nutria control registration number and proper identification to the department contractor.

d. Participant or designated assistant shall present to the department contractor only fresh or well-preserved (iced, frozen, salted) nutria tails in a manner that allows counting of individual tails (e.g., tails cannot be frozen together in a block). Only whole tails, greater than 7 inches in length will be accepted.

e. Participant shall declare parish, section, township, and range in coastal Louisiana where animals were taken and indicate method of take and carcass use. Tails from animals taken from outside of the participants permitted property shall not qualify for payment in this program.

f. Participant shall sign the receipt/voucher provided by the department contractor to acknowledge number of tails presented and accuracy of information provided.

5. Violation of any part of these regulations is a class 2 violation and conviction may result in disqualification from the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Brandt Savoie, Fur & Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Monday, August 5, 2002.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **October 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, October 3, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments**. An Unidentified Speaker stated he was a landowner and a lessee of land in Iberville Parish all enrolled in the DMAP program. He wanted to go on record as being opposed to the 6 point or better proposed rule. The speaker felt the proposal would not help improve the genetics of the deer herd. If you allow the smaller deer to stay in the herd, this will increase the number of mediocre deer that breed and this will hurt the genetics of the herd. He felt it was a mistake to kill the bigger bucks. Then the speaker referred to an article where deer 6 points or less were harvested and older does were harvested and after 5 years, results indicated a 30 percent increase in body weight and size of antlers. Concluding he asked the Commission not to institute the 6 point or better proposed rule, but rather allow the harvesting of spikes and defective bucks.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated one of the requirements for a hunter is to place a possession tag on their animal when it is no longer in their possession. The Bayou State Bowhunters Association agreed to fund the printing of 10,000 waterproof tags. He noted these would be at the district offices and would be available for distribution to the public. Chairman Gattle thanked the Bowhunters Association for this contribution.

Commissioner Kelly thanked the Enforcement Agents for their presence and the way they handled poaching prior to the opening of the spring season.


State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session) began with Mr. Mike Landrum stating this item involved current pending litigation. The proper title for the suit is State of Louisiana et al versus

Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation et al, Suit #486703, currently pending in the 19th Judicial District Court. Subject of the suit involves construction and operation of the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery. Mr. Landrum suggested the Commission take this item in Executive Session. Mr. T. J. Seale would give an information presentation, but no action would be taken or recommended. Commissioner Busbice made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion.

Mr. Joe Macaluso stated, since this was information only, the issue should be discussed openly. He then questioned the move to go into Executive Session and asked what in general could possibly be discussed. Mr. Landrum stated litigation risks and strategy would be discussed. Chairman Gattle felt it was the right of the Commission to discuss this suit in Executive Session. Mr. Macaluso reminded the Chairman that they will have to come back and reconvene the meeting before adjournment.

Hearing no further comments, the meeting went into Executive Session. Reconvening, the Chairman called the meeting to order. Before adjourning, Mr. Macaluso asked the results from the Executive Session. Chairman Gattle stated no decisions were made.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Marianne

Please review.

Thanks,

Susan H

6/24/2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 6, 2002

ttle, Jr. presiding.

~~BILL Busby~~

Terry Denmon

Lee Felterman

Tom Kelly

Wayne Sagrera

Jerry Stone

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **May 2, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Denmon and seconded by Commissioner Stone. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. Jerry McComb with Senator Rob Marionneaux's office to give a few comments on the Senator's behalf. Mr. McComb began apologizing for the Senator not being able to attend the meeting since the Legislation is in session. The comments were related to the 6 point proposed rule in Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Mr. McComb stated the Senator is opposed to the proposed rule as it relates to just those three parishes but may be in favor of it on a statewide basis. Then he felt it was not fair to exempt the Sherburne WMA from the proposed rule. Mr. McComb then commented, based on his own opinion, that they have imposed a 6 point or better rule on land his family has purchased. They have also made the discretion to allow certain family members or youth that have never shot deer to take something under that 6 point rule. Also Mr. McComb felt it was unfair to the Enforcement agents that may have to enforce the proposed rule. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. McComb and said to express to the Senator that his opinion was duly noted.

Representative Bobby Faucheux was unable to attend the meeting for his item, **Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session.**

Discussion of Import Restrictions on Foreign Shrimp was handled by Chairman Gattle. At the last meeting, several Legislators spoke to the Commission on the concern with shrimp and the economic condition of the shrimper. The Commission expressed to the Legislators that they support the industry and are concerned with the problems they are facing. The first resolution discusses support of legislation to impose a small tax similar to the 15 cents per barrel on all shrimp caught in this State and place that tax on both the imported and the domestic shrimp. Chairman Gattle felt this resolution was supported by the Department since it will help monitor and keep track of the imported shrimp coming into Louisiana. So basically the first resolution would help monitor and track the importation of shrimp. The second resolution addresses the use of chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics on imported shrimp. House Resolutions passed during the session has expressed concern by the public on the use of this chemical. The Department of Agriculture has tested shrimp from China and are finding this chemical on their shrimp. Mr. Don Puckett advised the Chairman he should read the resolutions for the record. After reading the first resolution on monitoring and tracking shrimp, Commissioner Busbice asked if House Bills 240 and 241 passed? Mr. Puckett stated the Bill Locator indicated House Bill 240 was heard in Committee on May 22, but has not moved to the House Floor. House Bill 241 passed the House and was sent to the Senate Committee. Chairman Gattle then asked the Commission to approve the resolution. Commissioner Busbice made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Chairman Gattle then read the second resolution on chemical use in shrimp. Commissioner Felterman made a motion to adopt the resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Stone. This motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolutions
are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 6, 2002

WHEREAS, current regulations only accommodate the monitoring and tracking of shrimp harvested domestically.

WHEREAS, imported shrimp numbers have been increasing nationwide over the past several years.

WHEREAS, it is important for the State of Louisiana to track and monitor the importation of shrimp from other countries for economic and health reasons.

WHEREAS, monitoring and tracking imported shrimp will enhance the enforceability required to adequately monitor harvest, track, prevent mislabeling, commingling, smuggling, false reporting and under reporting of domestically harvested Louisiana shrimp.

WHEREAS, additional revenue in the form of an import tax or excise tax or other revenue-generating mechanism will be necessary in order to accomplish this end.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby evidences its support for efforts of the Louisiana Legislature to pass statutes which will enhance the ability of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to monitor and track imported shrimp, including, but not limited to, House Bills 240 and 241.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby urges the Louisiana Legislature to assist the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by levying only those taxes or revenues necessary for this increased activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

WHEREAS, chloramphenicol is an antibiotic used in some countries in connection with the production of shrimp and other seafood products.

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of chloramphenicol in animals which are raised for human consumption.

WHEREAS, in January of 2002, the European Union banned imported Chinese products intended for human consumption or for use in animal feed, as a result of the discovery of chloramphenicol residues in seafood products harvested from and produced in that country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supports all efforts of the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, the United States Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and all other appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics, and to protect the citizens of Louisiana and the United States from same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, as well as to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees was put on the agenda by Commissioner Sagrera. He began stating he was approached by the Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association and they asked

that results of a survey on tag fees and expenditures be presented to the Commission. He then asked the Secretary of the Association to present the results of the survey.

Mr. Mark Shirley, Secretary of the Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association, presented results of an opinion poll from licensed alligator farmers in the State on the Commission's proposed rule to lower the alligator tag fees. During 2001, over 218,000 skins were supplied to the world exotic leather trade from Louisiana. This industry funds the alligator management program through tag fees, severance taxes and license fees. The issue is that more than enough money is being generated for the alligator management program. The excess money is deposited into the Alligator Resource Fund and is then allocated to other projects by the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. The survey included 28 farmers which accounts for 95 percent of the farm production. Of those surveyed, 100 percent would like to see the tag fee reduced. Another question asked was should the money be used to fund anything besides the Department's program and two-thirds answered no, it should go as mandated. Of those that answered yes, only 2 felt the money should be spent on limited marketing efforts; 5 said some money should be spent on educational materials; 12 felt money should be spent to send Department personnel to the CITES meetings; and 4 farmers felt the money should be spent on farm-related research whether done by the Department or Universities. The last question dealt with representation on the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. Currently only 2 members of the 11 members are alligator farmers. The farmers felt the Council should be restructured to reflect the proportion of contributions made to the Alligator Resource Fund. Over 85 percent of the fees deposited into the fund have come from farmers in recent years. Summarizing, Mr. Shirley noted the farmers are willing to continue to support the alligator program through the payment of tag fees, but does not want to pay excessive tag fees. He then asked the Commission to support the restructuring of the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council or develop a more equitable way to represent the farming industry when it comes to spending the money. Commissioner Busbice asked how much fee is collected for each skin? Mr. Shirley stated there is a \$4 tag fee per skin. Then Commissioner Busbice asked what was the value of the skins? Commissioner Sagrera stated skins are going between \$70 and \$75 each, so this equals to about a 5-6 percent fee on each alligator. Commissioner Busbice asked if there are other states Louisiana competes with? Commissioner Sagrera stated the biggest competition comes from the foreigners, but there is production in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Texas. Mr. Phil Bowman

stated he does not know the fees charged by the other states, but they all have to be tagged. In reference to the market, he said it was an international market. Mr. Shirley stated Louisiana is the biggest producer of the American alligator. Commissioner Denmon asked if the basic issue was the \$4 tag fee generated more money than was needed for the authorized activities? Mr. Shirley answered yes. Chairman Gattle asked if the Notice of Intent reduced the tag fee to \$3 and was it still in discussion period? Commissioner Segrera asked what was the current surplus? Mr. Bowman stated there will be \$2.4 million carried forward in the fund this year. Commissioner Stone asked how much would the reduction drop the fund by? Mr. Bowman stated it should reduce the fund by \$500,000 over a 2 year period. Commissioner Stone then asked what is the "comfort level" required? Mr. Bowman stated they suggested the fund should not drop below \$1.5 million. Commissioner Segrera asked Mr. Bowman what was the budget today? Mr. Bowman noted to run the management side of the program is about \$650,000. Then if an inflation factor was included in that over the next 5-6 years, that figure would be above \$800,000. From that fund, another \$400,000 is budgeted for the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. Also, federal funds are being solicited for a number of activities, one of which is working with LSU Vet School looking at diseases that may impact alligators. If this does not work out, then an additional \$100,000 may come from the Alligator Resource Fund to start this project. If you add that all together along with the \$1 suspension in the tag fee, you would be around \$1.5 million or below by 2004 or 2005. However, if you would go with a \$2 suspension, you would get to the \$1.5 million level 18 months quicker. Mr. Bowman stated litigation has been filed against the Department on the use of this fund and the outcome will affect whether or not revenue from the fund can be used for certain activities. He added that the Department does not recommend a further reduction in the fund. Commissioner Busbice asked what would happen if the tag fee was reduced by \$1.50 as a compromise? Again Mr. Bowman stated the fund would be reduced quicker than if left at \$1. Commissioner Segrera corrected the figure of skins from last year should have been 280,000 which would have generated about \$1.2 million at the present level. Chairman Gattle asked if the Council spends all of their \$400,000 budget? Mr. Bowman answered no, not to this point. Then Chairman Gattle asked what has been their actual expenditures for the last few years? Mr. Bowman stated in 1999, actual expenditures were \$174,000; in 2000 - \$347,000; 2001 - about \$300,000 and this year about \$300,000. Commissioner Denmon asked if there was a reason for the jump between 1999 and 2000? Mr. Bowman stated it was due to the

different programs the Council recommended as it related to marketing and education projects. Chairman Gattle stated the numbers are not adding up very well to him. He then stated he wanted to know how the Department ended with a surplus in the first place. Mr. Bowman stated when this was first put into place, the alligator management program was funded by a different revenue source. Chairman Gattle asked Commissioner Sagrera if the point of the discussion was to see if the Notice of Intent could be changed from \$3 to \$2? Commissioner Sagrera answered yes, and added that when Act 1041 was passed, those funds were to be used to help defray the cost of the alligator program within the Fur & Refuge Division. We all knew the surplus was climbing higher and higher. According to the Notice of Intent, Commissioner Sagrera felt the Commission could come back within two years and reverse the action. He then noted, if the tag fee was reduced to \$2, the fund would be at the \$1.5 million level the Department wanted to maintain in two years.

Mr. Steele McAndrew, an alligator farmer, stated during the initial discussions on the tag fees, they were told the only way to use the tag fee was through the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council. He stated there would only be two people on the Council and was assured that the farmers would be represented. The farmers agreed to cover any expenses by the Department through the tag fees. Mr. McAndrew felt they have been deceived on the dollar numbers from that account for years. He then stated that the farmers have never brought their problems to the Commission, they have always tried to handle them through the Department. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. McAndrew if he was in favor of reducing the tag fee another \$1 or was he in favor of more representation on the Council. Mr. McAndrew answered he was in favor of both.

Commissioner Stone asked who sets the Council. Mr. Bowman stated the Council is set in statute where the representatives should come from except that two are appointed by the Secretary from various organizations listed in the statute.

Mr. Darrell "Fats" Dupont, Chairman, Fur & Alligator Council, began stating the Louisiana Trappers and Hunters Association went to the Legislature to set up the Council years back. The reason for the Council's creation was things were going bad for the fur business and there was a need for help with that and the alligator business. At that time, there were no farmers. Mr. Dupont then stated the membership is broad, there are 2 alligator hunters, 2 alligator farmers, 1 alligator trapper, 1 alligator dealer, 1

farmer, 1 trapper dealer, 1 appointed by the Senate and 1 appointed by the House of Representatives. Then Representative Randy Roach presented legislation which created the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund which included the \$4 tag fee with 2 members of the Ranchers Association being on the Council. Mr. Dupont assured the Commission they have tried to do their best but noted there have been disagreements on some issues. They have tried to do a lot of educational and marketing work with the available funds. One of biggest problem in the industry today is the crocodile is taking the lead over the alligators. The quality of the egg returns are not the best and this results in a degrade in prices when checked. He then stated he passed around a copy of the conclusion from the Alligator Task Force which was to hold the tag fee at \$4, continue the programs as they were, and try to reduce the return rate which was successful. Reducing the tag fee to \$3 was ideal and adequate to Mr. Dupont, but he felt reducing it to \$2 would hurt the industry. Chairman Gattle stated the Council has asked for an Attorney General's opinion to find out who has authority on how the money is spent. He then asked Mr. Dupont to explain why this is being done? Mr. Dupont stated the statute mentions that they should ensure that all funds are spent properly and they feel salary money may not be proper. Chairman Gattle then asked if they would like to have total authority on how the money is spent? Mr. Dupont feels the Council needs to have authority to know how they can spend the money and how they can talk to the Department. He said there has been a big increase in the cost of the Department's program over the years and some is justified, but they want authority to say how money should be spent even on the projects they want. Chairman Gattle asked about a pending lawsuit and if it is allowed to use funds to promote marketing? Mr. Dupont stated they are doing educational and marketing programs. The lawsuit refers to a mushroom case where fees collected were used for a marketing program which was illegal and another case which was legal referenced states using money in part for salaries, marketing and other areas. So, they have hired along with the State an attorney and are waiting to find out what the courts rule. Chairman Gattle stated in his industry, there was a soybean check-off and the Promotion Board could not make every farmer participate. Mr. Dupont stated this fund was not used strictly for marketing, it was used for salaries, 70 percent was used for the ranching industry and only 30 percent went to the wild side. He did admit the ranchers do generate the most money.

Mr. Phil Bowman stated, in reference to tag fees from other states, in 1999 in Florida, the alligator tag fee for an alligator

less than 7' was \$15, over 7' the fee was \$30. In Texas, the tag fee was \$10.

Mr. Ted Joanen, a representative for the Louisiana Landowners and Marketing Group, stated this group was formed about 5 years ago for the purpose of improving alligator hide quality by implementing a better harvesting technique and to develop and expand markets. Membership encompasses about 1.5 million acres of land. During the 2001 alligator season, the group handled about one-third of the production from the wild harvest. Mr. Joanen then mentioned he worked for the Department for 32 years and during his career he was in charge of the alligator program. He wanted to speak in opposition to the reduction of the tag fee to \$2 when the \$4 fee was needed to defray the cost of the program in the Department and to help maintain the Council's budget at the current funding level. The alligator program was a success story, being copied by many countries throughout the world. Last year, Louisiana produced and shipped 218,000 farm skins and 35,000 wild skins to foreign markets. Alligator meat produced as a by-product was about 1.3 million pounds. Economic impact of the alligator industry in Louisiana produces about \$54 million annually. Mr. Joanen then went back to the 1960's and explained how the alligator population was extremely low in the State. Between 1962 and 1972, the Department initiated a very intensive alligator research program which developed a management technique to manage the alligator as a renewable resource. During that time, the population blossomed and the Department decided to open one parish to a small harvest of alligators. Also in 1970 along with the wild harvest, the Department began intensive research programs on the alligator farming concept. Lacking areas for farmers to obtain legal alligators, the Department opened their refuges and provided stock for the farmers to begin their farms. In 1986, the concept of farmers picking up eggs began. In 1989, the \$4 tag fee went into effect and ranchers collected 182,000 eggs, hatched 137,000, returned 7,000 back to the wild and harvested 67,000 skins. Today, the ranchers collect 354,000 eggs, hatch 294,000 alligators and return 48,000 to the wild, and 218,000 skins were sold from the farms. The industry is growing at a tremendous rate compared to 1989 when the \$4 tag fee was implemented. Mr. Joanen felt the talk should be on increasing the tag fee and not decreasing it. He then added he does not know why there is a surplus in the fund, the Department has been frugal with the money and did not put it back into the industry as the Council preferred. He suggested spending the surplus money on marketing, research and educational programs through the Council.

Mr. Zachary Casey, Chairman of Pelts and Skins, stated he has been working for two years to bring down the tag fee. He has watched the Department's budget increase and has watched a surplus go from \$100,000 to \$2.4 million. Mr. Casey added he did not know of any program in the State where there was such a surplus. Pelts and Skins filed the lawsuit to test the constitutionality of generic marketing and forcing the company to spend money to market a product in a generic manner. The Department has done everything administratively possible to handle the problem, commented Mr. Casey. The last resort was to file in Federal Court a suit against Secretary Jenkins. The suit does not include the Fur & Alligator Council, the Commission or the Department. Mr. Casey then stated he spends \$300,000-\$400,000 on marketing and added he would like to see the tag fees back in his own pocket to help expand the industry. His company has entered into a contract with LSU to fund a weights and measures test to determine how much thawed alligator meat should weigh. Mentioning other contracts, Mr. Casey stated this is an issue of really hardworking people trying to get their own money back. He then noted he was willing to pay his way, but again asked that they not pay for surpluses and things they do not want. Finally, Mr. Casey asked that the tag fee be reduced to \$2 and to consider legislation which would put more representation by the farmers on the Fur & Alligator Council. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Casey if he wanted to reduce the tag fee to \$2 or to do away with the tag fee? Mr. Casey stated he was on the Alligator Task Force and argued to have the return rate reduced to 10 percent, but it went to 14 percent and to have the tag fee reduced to \$2 and it was not reduced at all. He felt there was a need to keep some money in the Department for the core services that are needed.

Ms. Christine Brewton, a marketing and education person for the Fur & Alligator Council, stated she has been in sales and marketing for 25 years. With being a representative for the Council, she has established over 150 clients internationally that want to know about exotics and alligator skins. Then she explained how she gets the information into the market by verifying that the alligator is off the endangered species list and encourages the buying of Louisiana alligators. Ms. Brewton talked about how she clarifies the comparisons between alligators to the cayman to the retailers.

Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to suspend \$2 of the \$4 tag fee, commencing in September 2002 and continuing for a period of 2 years or until the Commission takes further action. Chairman

Gattle asked if the motion was stated properly. Mr. Don Puckett stated this motion is announcing that the Notice of Intent would be changed when finalized. Commissioner Denmon seconded the motion. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department's recommendation was to leave the suspension at \$1? Chairman Gattle answered yes. Then he added that there are an Attorney General's opinion and a lawsuit pending that questions the constitutionality of the whole thing. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Felterman.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during May.

Region I - Minden - 167 citations and 27 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 91 citations and 12 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 172 citations and 12 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 78 citations and 17 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 172 citations and 2 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 241 citations and 33 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 322 citations and 20 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 278 citations and 9 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 210 citations and 42 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 29 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 32 citations.

SWEP - 39 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 91 citations and 7 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 1,922. Also there were 181 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for May 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 89.2 hours for enforcement and 11.8 hours for other divisions. Eight citations were issued. A total of 540 students were certified in hunter education in May.

Then Major LaCaze reported that on June 3, Region VIII agents assisted St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office in recovering the body of a robbery suspect. Also he noted boating accidents have been higher this year with 52 accidents occurring so far of which 18 were fatalities and another 19 were injuries. Commissioner Kelly commented he has stopped several youth and advised them on the proper way to ride and observe water skiers. He then suggested there be an educational spot shown to make people aware of these regulations. Major LaCaze stated there is a voluntary boaters course taught throughout the state now and every year the Department goes to the Legislature and tries to get it mandatory. He felt a public service announcement was a good idea.

Public Information Report for October 2001 through March 2002 was presented by Ms. Marianne Burke. She then stated a 5 minute video would be shown on activities by the Public Information Section from October 2001 through March 2002. It would cover the Publications Unit, the Media Unit, and the Library. Back in November 2001, the Section took charge of the Front Desk and began keeping a log of the assistance offered there. Since that time, 11,446 calls and 3,385 walk-in questions have been answered. At this point, the video was shown. Ms. Burke concluded explaining the different ways media coverage is handled and the responses received from the television stations.

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations**. Mr. Bruce Norris, Director of Public Affairs for the Beau Rivage Resort, stated he wanted to speak on the proposed ban of commercial activities at Pass-a-Loutre WMA. He noted the Beau Rivage operates a 5,000 square foot lodge during duck season near the WMA. During this past duck season, about 180 hunters were at the lodge and almost 90 percent were non-residents. The direct economic impact to the Venice area from this activity was \$60,000 from food, gas and other supplies as well as another \$22,000 from license fees. They calculate that an economic impact of \$100,000 to the Venice area may be gained if allowed to operate next year due to better marketing efforts and repeat customers. Mr. Norris felt the size of Pass-a-Loutre allows for its use by both recreational hunters and guided hunters. He respectfully

asked that commercial guides be allowed to continue at least on Pass-a-Loutre WMA.

Mr. Ronald Mack, from Ruston, stated he has been asked by the small game hunters to request the Commission extend the squirrel season from February 10 to February 28. This date is the same as what occurs in other southern states and coincides with the rabbit closure. Currently some areas only have 10 days of squirrel hunting without interfering with deer hunters. He advised that the sport of squirrel hunting with dogs has grown and continues to grow. A statewide petition requesting this extension was circulating and Mr. Mack stated he would be back to present this. Also Mr. Mack contacted the other southern states and asked the effect of a February 28 closing date, and the results showed none. Copies of those letters would also be provided. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Tommy Prickett if there was a biological reason for not extending the squirrel season until February 28? Mr. Prickett stated the squirrel season has been extended three times over the last 8 years trying to provide more small game opportunity. He then asked Mr. Mike Olinde to address the biological issue. Mr. Olinde stated they liked the second weekend in February as the closing date for two reasons. The first was due to the number of complaints received on squirrels having fully developed fetuses in them and this needed to be addressed. The second was on small wood lots and the populations of Bachman squirrels.

Mr. Gladney, from Baton Rouge, stated he has been hunting Pass-a-Loutre WMA for 20 years and was mind-boggled by the Beau Rivage's activities last year. His group did not understand how state-owned lands could allow commercial operations to occur on the public WMAs. He felt it was wrong for outside commercial activities to exploit our resources.

Mr. Dale Ducote, from Baton Rouge, stated he also has been hunting Pass-a-Loutre WMA for the past 20-25 years. He added he has never seen anything occur on the WMA like he has seen for the past two years with the Beau Rivage and other commercial guides on the area. Mr. Ducote noted the ducks do not have the opportunity to rest now since they are being pursued all of the time. Talking on the economic impacts to the area, he felt the impact of losing the Beau Rivage would be minute compared to repeat state hunters who buy locally. He suggested the Beau Rivage should lease lands to conduct their activities. Mr. Ducote ended by hoping the Commission will ban commercialized hunting on all WMAs.

Mr. Ray Bordelon, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, stated on the Department's website after the March meeting, they viewed the changes proposed on ATV's and agreed with these changes. But recently he has been swamped with phone calls on tire changes which he was not aware of and requested clarification. Mr. Prickett stated this change was in the original Notice of Intent and the proposed restriction for the tire size covers the largest size currently produced by any manufacturer placed on an ATV. Also this tire size covers 95 percent of the aftermarket tires. Mr. Bordelon stated he did not see anything in the papers or on the website about tire sizes.

Mr. Bobby Fulmer, New Roads, stated he wanted to speak against the 6 point rule for the three parishes as recommended by the Quality Deer Association. He felt that having a rule was a good thing, but felt the wrong deer would be shot. Mr. Fulmer thought the spikes should be shot instead of the 6 point deer. There are some deer that remain spikes, noted Mr. Fulmer. Then he stated there is nothing in the proposal that allows for the elimination of cow-horned spikes. Again, Mr. Fulmer suggested getting rid of the spikes would be better than shooting the 6 points.

Mr. Jerry Gobb, President of Hickory Creek Archery which are manufacturers of the Draw-Loc, stated this product is a great tool for impaired handicapped hunters. He then listed the states that this tool is allowed, but noted Louisiana does not allow it. The product has been on the market for 6 years with no reports of any injury at all. Then Mr. Gobb stated to Commissioner Busbice that the Department allows the use of crossbows and Commissioner Busbice agreed. But Mr. Gobb felt the handicapped hunter should be able to make a choice. Chairman Gattle stated the product makes it a vertical crossbow and he disagreed with it being legal for the entire state under all conditions. Then Chairman Gattle stated if the product would be used to assist the elderly or a handicapped person, then they may take another look at it. Mr. Gobb stated there are a lot of people from Louisiana who call him and want his product. Chairman Gattle stated they will take it under advisement.

Mr. Lee Cumin, Slidell, stated he would like to see the Draw-Loc allowed in Louisiana for handicapped hunters without having an extra big expense of buying a crossbow. He felt it was a good product and works well.

Mr. Luke Allen, a hunter in northern Pointe Coupee Parish, stated he was against the proposed 6 point rule. He also felt it should not be forced on any private landowner that may not want it. Having this regulation may hurt the young hunters in the future and again he asked the Commission to vote against the rule.

Mr. Russell Lantier, Bayou State Bowhunters Association, reminded the Commission that 85-90 percent of the Louisiana bowhunters are not interested in the Draw-Loc. He urged the Commission to remain status quo.

Mr. David Desarmier, a quality deer management manager in southeast Louisiana, stated in dealing with landowners and hunting clubs, he would like to see disabled or impaired hunters be allowed to use the Draw-Loc.

Chairman Gattle stated they had a petition in their packets on the opening of squirrel and deer season the same day. Mr. Prickett stated the muzzleloader season and squirrel season will open the same day. But the issue comes up of who do you ask to stay home? Some hunters in Area 2 asked for the early deer season structure like Area 3 but wanted to maintain the dog hunting days and so a new Area 8 was created. Unless the Commission wanted to cut a season, the Department recommended opening the squirrel season and muzzleloader season the same day. Chairman Gattle stated he was not asking for a change, he just wanted comment on the petition. Then the Chairman stated he was told by a southwest Louisiana organization that youth day hunting will open the same day as muzzleloader season and they wanted the youth hunt to open separate from the muzzleloader season. Mr. Prickett stated they would look into that request.

Mr. Tommy Prickett began the next agenda item, a **Ducks Unlimited Progress Report** by stating waterfowl and wetlands are very important to Louisiana. The Commission, Department, Legislature, and sportsmen and women have long supported land acquisition for enhancement and management directed at improving waterfowl and wetlands in Louisiana and the breeding grounds of Canada. One of the most productive partnerships has been with Ducks Unlimited and they came to report on some of the successes from this partnership. Mr. Prickett then introduced Mr. Ross Melinchuk, Director of Federal and State Coordination, Mr. Hugh Bateman, Director of Habitat Conservation and Mr. Chad Courville, Wetlands Biologist.

Mr. Ross Melinchuk thanked the Commission for the opportunity to report on the partnership with the Department. The presentation would center on the breeding grounds in Prairie Canada and within the state programs. A slide was shown on the habitat conditions in Prairie Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Alberta, there was a very late cold spring, virtually no runoff and a snow pack well below normal; but since the first of May, there has been some late winter storms but most just melted and went into the ground. Early counts indicate a reduced breeding effort with depressed habitat conditions but Mr. Melinchuk felt it was too early to draw any conclusions. Moving into Saskatchewan, the conditions are dry in the heartland. In Manitoba, there is a bright spot in the southwestern portion of the province. They are indicating pond counts are down 20-30 percent from last year. Slides on the British Columbia, Ontario and Eastern Canada breeding grounds were shown. The area just north of the U.S.-Canada border that produces a lot of waterfowl that comes down the Mississippi Flyway and ends up in Louisiana is known as the Prairie Pothole Region. This area is 300,000 square miles of habitat and has generated very productive waterfowl populations. Louisiana Band Recoveries indicate 60 percent of the birds that come to Louisiana come from Saskatchewan. The State of Louisiana has worked with the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies to set out how each state would contribute toward a \$10 million goal. This goal was based on waterfowl numbers and hunter harvest from the 1970's. A chart of contributions from Louisiana and neighboring states to help support work on the breeding grounds was shown. The Commission has contributed funds in support of the work in Prairie Canada every year since 1965 and Mr. Melinchuk expressed thanks for this support. Slides shown next were a map of the area where these contributions were spent, the waterfowl breeding density, and the landscape under ideal conditions. Over the next 20 years within this area, Ducks Unlimited would like to protect about 2 million acres of existing grassland and another 500,000 acres of wetlands associated with it. This project over the next 20 years may cost \$100 million in Canadian dollars. The State's contribution along with matching funds equals to about 5:1 match. These long term goals are going to continue needing the Department's commitment as shown in the past and Mr. Melinchuk hoped this would continue. He then asked Mr. Hugh Bateman to give a presentation on what has been happening in-state.

Mr. Bateman continued the slide presentation by giving a basic overview of what Ducks Unlimited does in Louisiana to support the Department and other partners in wetlands conservation. To date,

there are 93 DU chapters that hold over 160 fund raising events in the State. Most years funds raised equal about \$2.6-\$2.7 million. Conservation activities can be grouped into 5 major programs, stated Mr. Bateman. The first one to be explained was the MARSH program. Currently 29 of these projects have been completed in Louisiana which enhanced, protected or restored 45,000 wetland acres. Of those 29 projects, 25 were on Department property where public hunting occurs. The next program that works extensively with farmers and private landowners was the North Louisiana Waterfowl Project. This program offers private landowners technical assistance in what they need to do and how to maintain their lands for a period of 10 years. Mr. Courville is involved in the South Louisiana Waterfowl Project which began in 1999 and already has 9,400 acres enrolled. Ducks Unlimited began working on the Wetland Reserve Program in 1996 and to date, almost 43,000 acres of wetlands has been restored. This has become a very popular program for Ducks Unlimited. In 1999, Ducks Unlimited became involved in a program called Conservation Easements which is a legal based program where landowners can get tax breaks by agreeing not to develop their land. One of the most important programs Ducks Unlimited is involved in is the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. This program, which began in 1995, provides federal dollars to do different wetland projects. Total conservation effort by Ducks Unlimited in Louisiana was 23,418 acres for the past year. Mr. Bateman then stated Ducks Unlimited has found a way to play a role in raising awareness of the need for coastal restoration. Chairman Gattle asked if Ducks Unlimited resolved their problems with Agriculture over some political issues? Mr. Bateman answered yes. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. Bateman and Mr. Melinchuk for their reports. Mr. Prickett stated the Department has taken the old fashioned way to improve waterfowl habitat by taking care of it. The Legislature passed a bill a number of years back that dedicates a percentage of the basic resident hunting license to help with the breeding grounds. Also the Department has partnered with Ducks Unlimited on some expensive projects the Department otherwise would not have been able to do.

A Resolution on Dewey Wills WMA Expansion was handled by Mr. Randy Myers. The expansion would add 1,595 acres of state-owned property to Dewey Wills WMA which is located in Larto Lake in Catahoula Parish. This land is presently state land which is a dried lake bed. Act 86 of the 2001 Regular Session allowed for the transfer of 686 acres to the Department with the restriction no timber cutting would occur on this property. Act 32 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session allowed for an additional 900 acres to

be transferred to the Department with no restrictions. Once the resolution is approved, the lands will be included in the Dewey Wills WMA rules and regulations for hunting. Chairman Gattle asked about the restriction on timber cutting and who owns the private property shown on the map. He then stated the private property gives the WMA an unusual look as compared to other WMAs. Additional questions by Chairman Gattle were: is there access to the island and are there camps on the private property? Mr. Prickett answered, a boat was needed to get to the island and he thought there were 1 or 2 camps on the island. He then asked Mr. Myers to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Denmon asked why the two parcels do not allow for timber cutting? Mr. Myers stated during the first transfer, the Department did not have the time or opportunity to meet with Legislators and discuss the possibility of timber management. Mr. Bowman added that in that part of the state, there are concerns over the Department's timber harvest and the prohibition is a result of that concern. Chairman Gattle asked if these lands would be a good addition to the WMA program? Mr. Myers answered yes. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Myers to find out who owns the private property within the WMA. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to adopt the Resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. After hearing no public comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

ADDING CERTAIN STATE OWNED PROPERTY TO THE DEWEY WILLS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
June 6, 2002

WHEREAS, there are presently 1595.72 acres of land, more or less, which are a part of an island located in Larto Lake, in Catahoula Parish, which are presently vacant state land and dried lake bed, all being owned by the state of Louisiana, which such property is more specifically described on the attached plat.

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable forested wetlands, the protection and proper management of which is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, pursuant to Act 86 of the Regular Session of 2001, sponsored by Senator Joe McPherson and Senator Noble Ellington, and Act 32 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session, sponsored by Senator Joe McPherson, Senator Noble Ellington, and Representative Tommy Wright, directed that this property be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Furthermore, pursuant to Act 86 of the Regular Session of 2001 no timber cutting is allowed on 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands that they be established as a wildlife management area and included in the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby select, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, the state owned land described above, comprised of 1595.72 acres, more or less, to be established as a Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be added to the existing Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area and subject to the rules and regulations promulgated for the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area, and that this property, pursuant to such rules and regulations, shall be dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall be no timber cutting allowed on the 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and the 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take whatever actions are necessary in furtherance of establishing this property as a Wildlife Management Area and adding it to the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Mr. Brandt Savoie hoped the next item, a **Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules & Regulations**, would help with coastal restoration. He then stated back in the 1960's, over 1 million nutria were being harvested, and then the demand dropped resulting in only 20,000 being harvested in 2000-01. In 1988, staff began observing open areas where nutria overgrazed wetland plants and now estimates show lost marshlands has increased from 50,000 to 100,000 acres. In April 2002, the Coastal Wetlands Planning and Protection and Restoration Act Task Force approved a coastwide nutria control program with \$2.2 million available annually for 5 years. Staff hopes 400,000 nutria will be harvested through this program. A fee of \$4 will be paid for each nutria tail. Mr. Savoie then went through various rules for the program. These included: the nutria will have to be taken from coastal Louisiana; a person will have to have a valid Louisiana trapping license in order to qualify; a person will have to have a tax receipt and description of the property along with signature of landowner or designated representative showing approval to hunt or trap nutria; a Nutria Control Program registration number will be issued when the landowner information is provided; nutria may be taken by any legal method, except if using a shotgun, steel shot must be used; coastal stations will be established across the coast; the severed tail must be delivered to these stations during a designated period; only fresh or well preserved whole tails 7 inches or greater in length will be taken; and the location, method

of take and use of carcass will have to be declared when delivered to the stations. Chairman Gattle asked why 7 inch tails? Mr. Savoie stated it was to keep trappers from using a pregnant nutria's babies. Commissioner Denmon asked where does the money come from? Mr. Savoie stated it comes from the Breaux bill which is a federally funded program to restore coastal wetlands. Commissioner Denmon then asked if the money was in the budget? Mr. Savoie stated it has been included in the budget the Legislature was currently working on. Finally, Commissioner Denmon asked if the program would be in place by the time the money was put in the budget? Mr. Savoie hoped the program would be ready for November when the trapping season begins. Hearing no further questions, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Savoie to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

- WHEREAS, the nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), a semi-aquatic rodent, native to South America, was placed in captivity in Louisiana during the late 1930's and was released or escaped into the state's coastal wetlands in the late 1930's, and
- WHEREAS, nutria rapidly spread across south Louisiana, first appearing in the fur harvest in 1943 and then by the late 1950's causing serious damage to rice and sugar cane, and
- WHEREAS, a demand for nutria fur developed in Germany and by 1962 the annual harvest was over one million. The harvest averaged 1.3 million pelts from 1962 through 1981. During this time the nutria was the backbone of the Louisiana fur industry peaking in value at \$25 million dollars during the late 1970's with nutria accounting for over \$15 million, and

WHEREAS, the demand for wild fur, including nutria, began declining as a result of changes in international markets. This reduction resulted in lower prices offered to trappers and resulted in a lower number of licensed trappers and effort. Thus, the harvest of nutria continued to drop during the late 1980's and through the 1990's, and

WHEREAS, in 1988 coastal land managers and department officials began observing open areas where nutria had overgrazed wetland plants; and based on aerial surveys during the 1990's, the number of acres impacted increased from 50,000 to 100,000, and

WHEREAS, in April 2002 the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force approved a Coastwide Nutria Control Program with \$2.2 million available annually for five years, and

WHEREAS, this Nutria Control Program is designed to encourage the harvest of 400,000 nutria annually by providing economic incentive through payments of \$4 per nutria tail to participants during the trapping season, and

WHEREAS, this program should significantly increase the number of trappers and effort and the number of nutria harvested and should reduce the total acres of damaged wetlands, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will implement, administer, and monitor the results of this program. The attached rules establish and regulate the Coastwide Nutria Control Program and are adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as a Notice of Intent.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertise its intent to establish a coastwide nutria control program.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§123. Coastwide Nutria Control Program

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby establish regulations governing participation in the coastwide nutria control program. The administrative responsibility for this program shall rest with the Department Secretary; the Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife; and the Fur and Refuge Division.

1. The coastwide nutria control program objective is to provide economic incentive, by payment of \$4 per nutria tail to participants, to encourage the harvest of up to 400,000 nutria annually from coastal Louisiana. For the purpose of this program, coastal Louisiana is bounded on the north by Interstate 10 from the Louisiana-Texas line to Baton Rouge, Interstate 12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell, and Interstate 10 to the Louisiana-Mississippi line.

2. Participant Application Process

a. Participants must acquire a valid Louisiana trapping license.

b. Participants must submit a completed nutria control program participant application to the department or its contractor.

c. To be considered complete, the application must contain the following information: name, address, telephone number, social security number, and trapping license number of applicant; tax receipt and a description of property to be trapped/hunted (acres, parish, township, range, section); name, address, and telephone number of landowner (private or public); signature of participant; and signature of landowner or designated representative indicating permission to hunt or trap nutria on the described property.

d. For applications determined to be complete and valid, the participant will be notified by mail that his/her registration is finalized and a nutria control program registration number will be issued.

e. The participant must indicate if an assistant will be delivering tails on his behalf to a collection center and the participant must provide the name of the assistant(s) on the application.

f. Applications submitted to the department or its contractor by October 1 shall be processed by the opening of trapping season. Applications submitted to the department or its contractor after October 1 shall be processed in the order received.

g. Applications listing only waterbodies, without signature of an adjacent landowner or designated representative, shall be considered incomplete.

h. Applications determined to be incomplete or invalid will be returned to the applicant with an explanation as to why registration could not be finalized.

3. Harvest of Nutria

a. Participants must possess a valid trapping license and a nutria control program registration number.

b. Only nutria harvested during the open trapping season, from coastal Louisiana and taken from property permitted can be included in this program.

c. Nutria may be taken by any legal method except that if taken with a shotgun, steel shot must be used.

4. Collection of Nutria Tails for Payment

a. Collection stations will be established across coastal Louisiana by the department or its contractor.

b. Evidence of nutria harvested shall be in the form of delivering severed nutria tails to a collection station during a designated period. Collections will begin on or about

November 20th. Specific dates and times of collections will be established and advertised for each station.

c. Participant or a designated assistant must present the nutria control registration number and proper identification to the department contractor.

d. Participant or designated assistant shall present to the department contractor only fresh or well-preserved (iced, frozen, salted) nutria tails in a manner that allows counting of individual tails (e.g., tails cannot be frozen together in a block). Only whole tails, greater than 7 inches in length will be accepted.

e. Participant shall declare parish, section, township, and range in coastal Louisiana where animals were taken and indicate method of take and carcass use. Tails from animals taken from outside of the participants permitted property shall not qualify for payment in this program.

f. Participant shall sign the receipt/voucher provided by the department contractor to acknowledge number of tails presented and accuracy of information provided.

5. Violation of any part of these regulations is a class 2 violation and conviction may result in disqualification from the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Brandt Savoie, Fur & Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Monday, August 5, 2002.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **October 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, October 3, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments**. An Unidentified Speaker stated he was a landowner and a lessee of land in Iberville Parish all enrolled in the DMAP program. He wanted to go on record as being opposed to the 6 point or better proposed rule. The speaker felt the proposal would not help improve the genetics of the deer herd. If you allow the smaller deer to stay in the herd, this will increase the number of mediocre deer that breed and this will hurt the genetics of the herd. He felt it was a mistake to kill the bigger bucks. Then the speaker referred to an article where deer 6 points or less were harvested and older does were harvested and after 5 years, results indicated a 30 percent increase in body weight and size of antlers. Concluding he asked the Commission not to institute the 6 point or better proposed rule, but rather allow the harvesting of spikes and defective bucks.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated one of the requirements for a hunter is to place a possession tag on their animal when it is no longer in their possession. The Bayou State Bowhunters Association agreed to fund the printing of 10,000 waterproof tags. He noted these would be at the district offices and would be available for distribution to the public. Chairman Gattle thanked the Bowhunters Association for this contribution.

Commissioner Kelly thanked the Enforcement Agents for their presence and the way they handled poaching prior to the opening of the spring season.

State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session) began with Mr. Mike Landrum stating this item involved current pending litigation. The proper title for the suit is State of Louisiana et al versus

Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation et al, Suit #486703, currently pending in the 19th Judicial District Court. Subject of the suit involves construction and operation of the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery. Mr. Landrum suggested the Commission take this item in Executive Session. Mr. T. J. Seale would give an information presentation, but no action would be taken or recommended. Commissioner Busbice made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion.

Mr. Joe Macaluso stated, since this was information only, the issue should be discussed openly. He then questioned the move to go into Executive Session and asked what in general could possibly be discussed. Mr. Landrum stated litigation risks and strategy would be discussed. Chairman Gattle felt it was the right of the Commission to discuss this suit in Executive Session. Mr. Macaluso reminded the Chairman that they will have to come back and reconvene the meeting before adjournment.

Hearing no further comments, the meeting went into Executive Session. Reconvening, the Chairman called the meeting to order. Before adjourning, Mr. Macaluso asked the results from the Executive Session. Chairman Gattle stated no decisions were made.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Deer-hunting plan draws fire

By **JOE MACALUSO**
Advocate outdoors writer

With the Area 6 deer-hunting controversy settled, a handful of hunters voiced objections about the proposed 6-point experimental season in three Capital City area parishes at Thursday's Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting.

Speaking for State Sen. Rob Marionneaux, D-Livonia, Jerry LaCombe said the senator opposed the experiment for Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge parishes.

The 6-point season will demand hunters in those three parishes take bucks with six or more points in their antlers for the 2002-03 deer season. Sherburne WMA, private lands owned by Adams and Summers inside the WMA and the part of Iberville Parish east of the Mississippi River are not included in the program.

"Senator Marionneaux said the proposal makes no sense, that he is willing to go with a plan statewide, but is unwilling to use the three parishes as a pilot program," LaCombe said. "The senator said it is not right to bring in the three parishes, then exempt the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area from the program."

Other exemptions make all deer legal game during the Nov. 9-10 Special Youth Deer Hunt on private lands and that bucks with spikes three inches or shorter can be taken throughout the season.

"The senator said the move is nothing more than to impose the will of large property owners on small property owners," LaCombe said.

The South Louisiana Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association first proposed the experimental season in 2001.

While hunter Luke Allen echoed those sentiments, Bobby Fulmer and Don Ristroph said the QDMA push for a 6-point rule won't work if larger bucks are the desired result.

"It's good to have a rule and QDM is going in the right direction, but they want to shoot the wrong deer," Fulmer said. "You should shoot the spikes and not the 6-point bucks. There is nothing in the regulations that allow taking cow-horned spikes, the 180-pound buck with spikes."

Fulmer said there is information to show that allowing spikes to continue to breed continues their genes in the deer herd.

Ristroph cited a report in Progressive Farmer that indicates "all bucks with fewer than six points, regardless of age, should be removed from the herd."

The LWFC also heard a plea from Beau Rivage spokesman Bruce Norris to open state wildlife management areas to hunting guides. In

CORRECTION

In Tuesday's story concerning Major League Baseball signings, The Advocate misidentified Carl Primus of Southern as Robert Primus. Carl Primus was taken in the 23rd round by the Seattle Mariners. The Advocate regrets the error.

Dove season changes set

Louisiana dove hunters could find a dramatic change to the season when it opens in September.

After a near-hour-long meeting Thursday, the Hunting Regulations Committee of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set in motion plans to divide the state into North and South zones.

The I-10/I-12 line will divide the zones.

Chaired by Dr. Jerry Stone from Baton Rouge, the committee will offer a 60-day, 15-dove-per-day season for the North Zone

and a 70-day, 12-dove-per-day season in the South Zone.

State Wildlife Division administrator Tom Prickett told the three-man committee that his staff will develop options for the LWFC to consider at its July 2 meeting.

State Upland Game Study leader Mike Olinde said federal regulations allow opening the North Zone as early as Sept. 1, but restrict the South Zone opening day "no earlier than Sept. 20 in any year."

— Joe Macaluso

March, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries proposed a ban on hunting guides using WMAs beginning with the 2002 hunting season. Norris said Beau Rivage's waterfowl hunting operation used Pass a Loure WMA during the last two duck seasons. Baton Rougeans Randy Gladden and Dale Ducote asked for passage of the ban.

Resident game and WMA hunting regulations will be ratified at the LWFC's July 2 meeting.

In other action, the LWFC agreed to modify a Notice of Intent to suspend \$2 of the \$4 alligator tagging fee for the next two alligator seasons. The move is proposed because of a surplus in the Alligator Resource Fund.

At the urging of chairman Tom Gattle, the seven-man commission unanimously approved resolutions supporting the Louisiana Legislature's bills to monitor imported shrimp and to ban imported "seafood products" which were raised with the aid of antibiotics. Antibiotics, especially chloramphenicol, have been found in shrimp imported from China and in animal feed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of chloramphenicol in animals raised for human consumption.

The LWFC also learned of a plan to add 1,595 acres from dried-up areas of Lake Larto to the Dewey Wills WMA, and heard a report from Ducks Unlimited representative Hugh Bateman about Wednesday's dedication of Louisiana Coastal

Wetlands Terracing Project near the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge in the southwest corner of the state.

The commission also approved a plan that would put a \$4 bounty on nutria in the state's coastal marshes during the upcoming trapping season and, in executive session, were updated on the LDWF's suit against Professional Engineering Consultants for problems at the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery.

The LWFC also learned enforcement agents issued 1,922 citations in May, most for recreational fishing and boating violations, including four boating while intoxicated violations, and set its October meeting for Oct. 3.

New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Friday, June 14
New Jersey, 8 p.m., if necessary
Monday, June 17
L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, June 19
L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m., if necessary

WEDNESDAY

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New Jersey 5-16 (Van Horn 2-6,
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akers 21 (Bryant 6). Total fouls—
A. Lakers 20. Technicals—Martin,
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EXOTICA

Miss Nude
Galaxy

Appearing
June 3rd-8th



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KNIGHT

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COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, June 6, 2002
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

*alligator
tag fee*

		Attended	Absent
Y	Tom Gattle (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Jerry Stone	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Bill Busbice	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Wayne Sagrera	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Terry Denmon	<u>✓</u>	___
N	Lee Felterman	<u>✓</u>	___

Mr. Chairman:

There are 7 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
June 6, 2002
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2002
3. Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session - Rep. Bobby Faucheux
4. Discussion of Import Restrictions on Foreign Shrimp - Tom Gattle
5. Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees - Wayne Sagrera
6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Keith LaCaze
7. Public Information Report for October 2001 through March 2002 - Marianne Burke
8. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
9. Ducks Unlimited Progress Report - Ross Melinchuk
10. Resolution - Dewey Wills WMA Expansion - Randy Myers
11. Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules & Regulations - Brandt Savoie
12. State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session) - Don Puckett
13. Set October 2002 Meeting Date
14. Public Comments
15. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION BATON ROUGE, LA

June 6, 2002

10:00 AM

- ~~1.~~ Roll Call
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- ~~13.~~ Set October 2002 Meeting Date
- ~~14.~~ Public Comments
15. Adjournment



STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT R. "BOBBY" FAUCHEUX, JR.
District 57

Judiciary
Insurance
Ways and Means
Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay

St. John District Office
197 Belle Terre Boulevard
P. O. Box 1960
LaPlace, Louisiana 70069-1960
E-Mail: larep057@legis.state.la.us
Telephone: (504) 651-3886
(800) 462-5017
Fax: (504) 651-0151

St. James District Office
230 Main Street
P. O. Box 367
Gramercy, Louisiana 70052
Telephone: (225) 869-3944
Fax: (225) 869-9180

May 14, 2002

Mr. Thomas Gattle, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

RE: Resolutions

Dear Mr. Gattle:

I am enclosing a copy of resolutions that were introduced in the 2001 1st Extraordinary Session. These resolutions passed in both the House and Senate. I would appreciate it if you could place them on the June 6 meeting agenda.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation and I look forward to making the presentation to the commission.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Fauchaux, Jr.", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert R. "Bobby" Fauchaux, Jr.
State Representative
District 57

RRFJr:gen
enclosures

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVE FAUCHEUX

HUNTING/DEER: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to allow hunting with dogs in the Maurepas WMA

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules and
3 regulations to allow deer hunting with dogs in the Maurepas Wildlife
4 Management Area.

5 WHEREAS, the Mellon Foundation donated a tract of approximately
6 sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and located
7 in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes, to the
8 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of creating a
9 wildlife management area (WMA); and

10 WHEREAS, with this acreage the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
11 created the Maurepas WMA on August 8, 2001; and

12 WHEREAS, the secluded swamplands, dominated by bald cypress-
13 tupelo gum, that comprise the Maurepas WMA have been an abundant hunting
14 ground for generations; and

15 WHEREAS, the Maurepas WMA's landscape of swamp and waterways
16 makes movement difficult for hunters; and

17 WHEREAS, deer hunting with the aid of dogs has long been a part of
18 the rich cultural heritage of this state.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana
2 does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt
3 rules and regulations allowing deer hunting using dogs in the Maurepas
4 Wildlife Management Area.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
6 transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Faucheux

HCR No. 24

Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to allow deer hunting using dogs in the Maurepas WMA.

ENROLLED

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY REPRESENTATIVE FAUCHEUX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow individuals to continue to use their existing camps on the Reserve Relief Canal and Mississippi Bayou in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area until July of 2003.

WHEREAS, over the past forty years, individuals leased property in the inaccessible areas south of Lake Maurepas, dominated by bald cypress-tupelo gum swamp, for the purpose of building hunting camps; and

WHEREAS, during these long years, the lessees brought lumber and materials by water to tediously construct camps in the secluded swamplands; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2001, the Richard King Mellon Foundation purchased sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and located in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes; and

WHEREAS, the Mellon Foundation, in turn, donated the property to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of creating a wildlife management area (WMA); and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission created the Maurepas WMA on August 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the commission and the department maintain a long-standing policy of refusing private leases within management areas and continue to require that camp owners remove camps by July 1, 2002, or face demolition by the department; and

WHEREAS, the property became attractive for a WMA due to the camp owners' conservation efforts in encouraging and maintaining a healthy complement of game animals; and

WHEREAS, wildlife agents seldom patrol the inaccessible and back swamp area, and the presence of camps and camp owners discourages poachers and other unlawful activity; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of Louisiana for individuals who have invested a great amount of time and effort in the area and who are genuinely concerned about the wildlife and habitat to continue their relationship with the area by retaining the use of their camps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow individuals to continue to use their existing camps on the Reserve Relief Canal and Mississippi Bayou in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area until July of 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE FAUCHEUX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the possibility of allowing the use of air boats in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area, including the tributaries and canals leading to Blind River, except during hunting and rutting season.

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission created the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on August 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Maurepas WMA is located on sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and is located in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes; and

WHEREAS, this acreage, especially the area containing the tributaries and canals leading to Blind River, has historically been a favorite of tourists utilizing air boat tours to observe the beauty of Louisiana's waterways and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, one of this state's leading sources of revenue is derived from tourism which, as in other states, has decreased over the past year; and

WHEREAS, current regulations of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prohibit air boat tours of the Maurepas WMA including the tributaries and canals leading to Blind River contained within the management area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the possibility of allowing the use of air boats in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area, including the tributaries and canals leading to Blind River, except during hunting and rutting season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ENROLLED

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVES FAUCHEUX AND GARY SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow St. John the Baptist Parish to lease existing camps on the Reserve Relief Canal and Mississippi Bayou in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, over the past forty years, individuals leased property in the inaccessible areas south of Lake Maurepas, dominated by bald cypress-tupelo gum swamp, for the purpose of building hunting camps; and

WHEREAS, during these long years, the lessees brought lumber and materials by water to tediously construct camps in the secluded swamplands; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2001, the Richard King Mellon Foundation purchased sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and located in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes; and

WHEREAS, the Mellon Foundation, in turn, donated the property to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of creating a wildlife management area (WMA); and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission created the Maurepas WMA on August 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the commission and the department maintain a long-standing policy of refusing private leases within management areas and continue to require that camp owners remove camps from the Maurepas WMA by July 1, 2002, or face demolition by the department; and

WHEREAS, the property became attractive for a WMA due to the camp owners' conservation efforts in encouraging and maintaining a healthy complement of game animals; and

WHEREAS, wildlife agents seldom patrol the inaccessible and back swamp area, and the presence of camps and camp owners discouraged poachers and other unlawful activity; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of Louisiana for individuals who have invested a great amount of time and effort in the area and who are genuinely concerned about the wildlife and habitat to continue their relationship with the area by leasing their former camps; and

WHEREAS, the camp owners recently donated their interest in these camps to St. John the Baptist Parish, and the parish council has accepted the donation with the intent to lease the camps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow St. John the Baptist Parish to lease existing camps on the Reserve Relief Canal and Mississippi Bayou in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the parish president of St. John the Baptist Parish.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ENROLLED

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY REPRESENTATIVE FAUCHEUX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules and regulations to allow deer hunting with dogs in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, the Mellon Foundation donated a tract of approximately sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and located in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes, to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of creating a wildlife management area (WMA); and

WHEREAS, with this acreage the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission created the Maurepas WMA on August 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the secluded swamplands, dominated by bald cypress-tupelo gum, that comprise the Maurepas WMA have been an abundant hunting ground for generations; and

WHEREAS, the Maurepas WMA's landscape of swamp and waterways makes movement difficult for hunters; and

WHEREAS, deer hunting with the aid of dogs has long been a part of the rich cultural heritage of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules and regulations allowing deer hunting using dogs in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVE FAUCHEUX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries not to oppose the construction of a new interchange and truck route within the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area, but to ensure that natural drainage through the management area is maintained.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries owns and operates a large number of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) around the state, and its newest WMA is the Maurepas WMA, which comprises sixty thousand eight hundred eighty acres in the parishes of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist; and

WHEREAS, the primary natural geological feature of the new WMA is bald cypress-tupelo gum swamp, one of Louisiana's hallmark environments, but two major Louisiana thoroughfares also traverse the area: Interstate 10 and Airline Highway; and

WHEREAS, the state and local governments are considering construction of a new route through the area which is intended to facilitate truck traffic moving from the major highways directly to the industrial operations along the river; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important factors contributing to the ecological health of wetlands such as those now within the Maurepas WMA is the natural flow of water within the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the new truck route and interchange could disrupt the natural flow of water in the swamp; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives is cognizant of the damage that has been done to other wetland areas of the state by human efforts, particularly efforts to alter natural drainage and other movement of surface waters, and further recognizes that the goal of economic development must be pursued in tandem with preserving the natural environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries not to oppose the construction of a new interchange and truck route within the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area, but to ensure that natural drainage through the management area is maintained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ENROLLED

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries not to take any action that would impede the flow of water in the Maurepas WMA, particularly in the area between Airline Highway and Interstate 10.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries owns and operates a large number of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) around the state, and its newest WMA is the Maurepas WMA, which comprises sixty thousand eight hundred acres in the parishes of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist; and

WHEREAS, the primary natural geological feature of the new WMA is the bald cypress-tupelo gum swamp, one of Louisiana's hallmark environments, but two major Louisiana thoroughfares also traverse the area: Interstate 10 and Airline Highway; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important factors contributing to the ecological health of wetlands such as those now within the Maurepas WMA is the natural flow of water within the eco-system; and

WHEREAS, the presence of two major thoroughfares in the Maurepas WMA, however, may result in consideration of projects which would disrupt the natural flow of water, particularly in the area between the two highways; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana is cognizant of the damage that has been done to other wetland areas of the state by human efforts, particularly efforts to alter natural drainage and other movement of surface waters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries not to consider or take any action which would impede the natural flow of water in the Maurepas WMA, particularly in that area between Airline Highway and Interstate 10.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ENROLLED

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules and regulations to allow deer hunting with dogs in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, the Mellon Foundation donated a tract of approximately sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and located in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes, to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of creating a wildlife management area (WMA); and

WHEREAS, with the acreage the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission created the Maurepas WMA on August 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the secluded swamplands, dominated by bald cypress-tupelo gum, that comprise the Maurepas WMA have been an abundant hunting ground for generations; and

WHEREAS, the Maurepas WMA's landscape of swamp and waterways makes movement difficult for hunters; and

WHEREAS, deer hunting with the aid of dogs has long been a part of the rich cultural heritage of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules and regulations allowing deer hunting using dogs in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

SR NO. 29

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ENROLLED

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND CHAISSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow St. John the Baptist Parish to lease existing camps on the Reserve Relief Canal and Mississippi Bayou in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, over the past forty years, individuals leased property in the inaccessible areas south of Lake Maurepas, dominated by bald cypress-tupelo gum swamp, for the purpose of building hunting camps; and

WHEREAS, during these long years, the lessees brought lumber and material by water to tediously construct camps in the secluded swamplands; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2001, the Richard King Mellon Foundation purchased sixty-three thousand acres, more or less, south of Lake Maurepas and located in parts of Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes; and

WHEREAS, the Mellon Foundation, in turn, donated the property to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of creating a wildlife management area (WMA); and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission created the Maurepas WMA on August 8, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the commission and the department maintain a long-standing policy of refusing private leases within management areas and

continue to require that camp owners remove camps by July 1, 2002, or face demolition by the department; and

WHEREAS, the property became attractive for a WMA due to the camp owners' conservation efforts in encouraging and maintaining a healthy compliment of game animals; and

WHEREAS, wildlife agents seldom patrol the inaccessible and back swamp area, and the presence of camps and camp owners discouraged poachers and other unlawful activity; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of Louisiana for individuals who have invested a great amount of time and effort in the area and who are genuinely concerned about the wildlife and habitat to continue their relationship with the area by leasing their former camps; and

WHEREAS, the camp owners recently donated their interest in these camps to St. John the Baptist Parish, and the parish council has accepted the donation with the intent to lease the camps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow St. John the Baptist Parish to lease existing camps on the Reserve Relief Canal and Mississippi Bayou in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the parish president of St. John the Baptist Parish.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Search results for the following criteria: Wildlife and Fisheries

19 instruments found

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Instrument	Author	Status	Summary
HB12	MONTGOMERY	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ACT 55	FISHING/NETS: Authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prohibit the use of nets and traps on Cypress Bayou Reservoir and Black Bayou Reservoir (EN INCREASE LF RV See Note)
HCR19	FAUCHEUX	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	CULTURE/REC/TOUR: Requests the Office of State Parks and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop a plan for establishing state parks with rental cabins in wildlife management areas
✓ HCR24	FAUCHEUX	ASSIGNED TO SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES	HUNTING/DEER: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to allow hunting with dogs in the Maurepas WMA
✓ HCR25	FAUCHEUX	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow use of camps in the Maurepas WMA
✓ HCR44	FAUCHEUX	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow the use of air boats in the Maurepas WMA
HR9	DOWNER	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	WILDLIFE & FISHERIES CMN: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission not to reduce certain fees without consent by the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council
✓ HR18	FAUCHEUX	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow the lease of camps in the Maurepas WMA
✓ HR20	FAUCHEUX	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	HUNTING/DEER: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to allow deer hunting with dogs in the Maurepas WMA
✓ HR26	FAUCHEUX	FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE	WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Makes requests of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries relative to certain activities in the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area
		FILED WITH	FISHING/OYSTERS: Requests the Louisiana

<u>HR31</u>	<u>FLAVIN</u>	THE SECRETARY OF STATE	Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the oyster season in certain areas for two weeks
<u>SB7</u>	<u>DUPRE</u>	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ACT 12	PUBLIC LANDS: Authorizes the Terrebonne Parish School Board to lease certain property in Terrebonne Parish to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
<u>SB42</u>	<u>MCPHERSON</u>	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ACT 32	PUBLIC LANDS: Provides for the transfer of certain lands in Catahoula Parish from the office of state lands to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for inclusion into the Dewey W. Wills Wildlife Management Area.
<u>SB102</u>	<u>MALONE</u>	SUBJECT TO CALL - HOUSE REFERRAL	FISH/FISHING: Authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prohibit the use of nets and traps on Cypress Bayou Reservoir and Black Bayou Reservoir. (gov sig)
<u>SR22</u>	<u>MARIONNEAUX</u>	ADOPTED IN THE SENATE	WILDLIFE/FISHERIES DEPT: Requests the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to maintain the current gun and archery deer season in Area 6 and in Iberville, Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge parishes.
✓ <u>SR28</u>	<u>LAMBERT</u>	ADOPTED IN THE SENATE	WILDLIFE RESOURCES: Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries not to take any action that would impede the flow of water in the Maurepas WMA.
✓ <u>SR29</u>	<u>LAMBERT</u>	ADOPTED IN THE SENATE	HUNTERS/HUNTING: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to allow deer hunting with dogs in the Maurepas WMA.
✓ <u>SR30</u>	<u>LAMBERT</u>	ADOPTED IN THE SENATE	WILDLIFE/FISHERIES DEPT: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to allow the parish of St. John the Baptist to lease certain camps in the Maurepas WMA.
<u>SR34</u>	<u>C.ROMERO</u>	ADOPTED IN THE SENATE	HUNTERS/HUNTING: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a special seventy-day dove season south of Interstate 10 from the Texas/Louisiana border at the Sabine River eastward to the Mississippi River.
<u>SR35</u>	<u>THEUNISSEN</u>	ADOPTED IN THE SENATE	FISH/FISHING: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the oyster season this year in Calcasieu and Cameron parishes for two additional weeks.

19 instruments found

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RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 6, 2002

WHEREAS, current regulations only accommodate the monitoring and tracking of shrimp harvested domestically.

WHEREAS, imported shrimp numbers have been increasing nationwide over the past several years.

WHEREAS, it is important for the State of Louisiana to track and monitor the importation of shrimp from other countries for economic and health reasons.

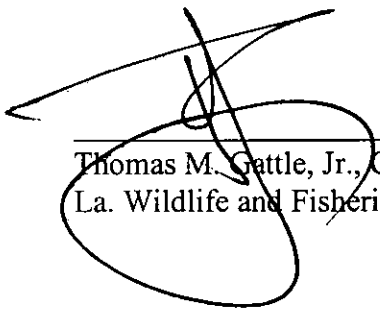
WHEREAS, monitoring and tracking imported shrimp will enhance the enforceability required to adequately monitor harvest, track, prevent mislabeling, commingling, smuggling, false reporting and under reporting of domestically harvested Louisiana shrimp.

WHEREAS, additional revenue in the form of an import tax or excise tax or other revenue-generating mechanism will be necessary in order to accomplish this end.


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby evidences its support for efforts of the Louisiana Legislature to pass statutes which will enhance the ability of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to monitor and track imported shrimp, including, but not limited to, House Bills 240 and 241.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby urges the Louisiana Legislature to assist the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by levying only those taxes or revenues necessary for this increased activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable John J. Hainkel
Senate President
P. O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SUBJECT: Legislation to Enhance Monitoring and Tracking of
Imported Shrimp

Dear Senator Hainkel:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in support of legislation to enhance the ability of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to monitor and track imported shrimp. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable Charles DeWitt
Speaker of the House
P. O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SUBJECT: Legislation to Enhance Monitoring and Tracking of
Imported Shrimp

Dear Representative DeWitt:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in support of legislation to enhance the ability of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to monitor and track imported shrimp. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

WHEREAS, chloramphenicol is an antibiotic used in some countries in connection with the production of shrimp and other seafood products.

WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of chloramphenicol in animals which are raised for human consumption.


WHEREAS, in January of 2002, the European Union banned imported Chinese products intended for human consumption or for use in animal feed, as a result of the discovery of chloramphenicol residues in seafood products harvested from and produced in that country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supports all efforts of the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, the United States Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and all other appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics, and to protect the citizens of Louisiana and the United States from same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, as well as to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.



Thomas M. Gattie, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable Jeri Thomson
Secretary of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Secretary Thomson:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable Jeff Trandahl
Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, Room H154
Washington, DC 20515-6601

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Mr. Trandahl:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable John Breaux
United States Senator
503 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Senator Breaux:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable Mary Landrieu
United States Senator
724 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Senator Landrieu:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable David Vitter
United States Representative
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman Vitter:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable William Jefferson
United States Representative
240 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman Jefferson:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable W. J. "Billy" Tauzin
United States Representative
2183 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman Tauzin:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable "Jim" McCrery
United States Representative
2104 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman McCrery:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable John Cooksey
United States Representative
115 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman Cooksey:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

June 10, 2002

Honorable Richard Baker
United States Representative
341 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman Baker:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable Chris John
United States Representative
1504 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Congressman John:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable John J. Hainkel
Senate President
P. O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Senator Hainkel:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable Charles DeWitt
Speaker of the House
P. O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Representative DeWitt:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

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Post Office Box 98000
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June 10, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable Bob Odom, Commissioner
Department of Agriculture & Forestry
P. O. Box 631
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0603

SUBJECT: Importation of Seafood Contaminated with Antibiotics

Dear Commissioner Odom:

Enclosed herewith please find a Resolution approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supporting all appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics. This Resolution was passed at the Commission's last regularly scheduled meeting of June 6, 2002.

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Secretary

Enclosure

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 6, 2002

- WHEREAS, current regulations only accommodate the monitoring and tracking of shrimp harvested domestically.
- WHEREAS, imported shrimp numbers have been increasing nationwide over the past several years.
- WHEREAS, it is important for the State of Louisiana to track and monitor the importation of shrimp from other countries for economic and health reasons.
- WHEREAS, monitoring and tracking imported shrimp will enhance the enforceability required to adequately monitor harvest, track, prevent mislabeling, commingling, smuggling, false reporting and under reporting of domestically harvested Louisiana shrimp.
- WHEREAS, additional revenue in the form of an import tax or excise tax or other revenue-generating mechanism will be necessary in order to accomplish this end.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby evidences its support for efforts of the Louisiana Legislature to pass statutes which will enhance the ability of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to monitor and track imported shrimp, including, but not limited to, House Bills 240 and 241.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby urges the Louisiana Legislature to assist the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by levying only those taxes or revenues necessary for this increased activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

WHEREAS, chloramphenicol is an antibiotic used in some countries in connection with the production of shrimp and other seafood products.

WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of chloramphenicol in animals which are raised for human consumption.

WHEREAS, in January of 2002, the European Union banned imported Chinese products intended for human consumption or for use in animal feed, as a result of the discovery of chloramphenicol residues in seafood products harvested from and produced in that country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supports all efforts of the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, the United States Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and all other appropriate state and federal agencies in their efforts to monitor and prohibit the importation of seafood products contaminated with chloramphenicol or any other potentially harmful antibiotics, and to protect the citizens of Louisiana and the United States from same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, as well as to the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

Changed
4:20PM -
6/4/2002

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 6, 2002

WHEREAS, current regulations only accommodate the monitoring and tracking of shrimp harvested domestically.

WHEREAS, imported shrimp numbers have been increasing both in Louisiana and nationwide over the past several years.

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La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

WHEREAS, chloramphenicol is an antibiotic used in some countries in connection with the production of shrimp and other seafood products.

WHEREAS, chloramphenicol has been banned in the United States for use in connection with animals which are raised for human consumption because it has been proven to pose a threat to humans, specifically as a causative agent of fatal aplasty anemia.

WHEREAS, this antibiotic is banned in the European Union countries because it is believed to cause bone marrow damage.

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

San 6-4-02

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 6, 2002

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

JS
6-4-02

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

**REPORT TO THE LOUISIANA
FUR AND ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL,
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
AND THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES
ON NATURAL RESOURCES**



**SUBMITTED BY
THE LOUISIANA ALLIGATOR TASK FORCE**

February 1, 2000

During the 1999 Regular Legislative Session, House Concurrent Resolution Number 153 was submitted by Representative John Smith. The resolution stated “that the Louisiana Legislature does hereby create the Louisiana Alligator Task Force to examine issues relative to the alligator industry in the state of Louisiana and to make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries relative to development of policies to manage and coordinate effort in regard to those issues.” The resolution stated that the task force be composed of seven members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The resolution also stated “that the task force shall particularly examine issues relative to the appropriate amount for tag fees; a re-examination of the release ratios; a cost-benefit analysis of marketing efforts by the Fur and Alligator Advisory Council on behalf of the alligator industry; and an examination of the use of public education funds from the Alligator Resource Fund; however, the task force shall not be limited to an examination of only these issues”.

The alligator task force first met on August 4, 1999 at the Baton Rouge Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters and discussed agendas and operating procedures and issues. A second meeting was held on September 23, 1999 at Rockefeller Refuge in Grand Chenier where the task force discussed farm alligator release rates, alligator program, nest surveys, population trends, farm release program, size class frequency distribution models, harvest rates and survival analysis. The third meeting was held on October 21, 1999 at the Baton Rouge Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters and discussed the farm alligator release rates, alligator program income and expenditures, \$4.00 tag fee and program activities (current and proposed). The fourth meeting was held at Rockefeller Refuge in Grand Chenier on November 16, 1999 where the task force finished discussing alligator program, alligator marketing activities (Fur and Alligator Council) and final report structure. The fifth and final alligator task force meeting was held on December 15, 1999 at the Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters in Baton Rouge where preparation of final report was discussed and recommendations were finalized by votes from the alligator task force members.

Two sets of recommendations were agreed upon by the alligator task force through majority vote at the December 15 meeting. For details of discussions on issues refer to meeting minutes. One set of recommendations was comprised of particular issues to be examined by the alligator task force which were specified by the House Concurrent Resolution Number 153. The Louisiana Alligator Task Force made the following recommendations concerning the specified issues;

- 1) to reduce the release rate of farm alligators to 14 percent with the current sliding scale,
- 2) to maintain the \$4.00 tag fee, and
- 3) to continue marketing efforts by the Fur and Alligator Council and continue present level of funding as funds become available. Projects and funding levels be prioritized as in the past and per industry request be voted on by representatives of farmers, trappers, landowners and dealers.

The second set of recommendations was comprised of issues examined by the alligator task force which were not specified in the resolution. The Louisiana Alligator Task Force made the following recommendations concerning unspecified issues;

- 1) to leave to the discretion of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' staff to spot check tags in order to comply with CITES requirements,
- 2) to fill the currently vacant position (vacated by the retirement of Larry McNease) at Rockefeller Refuge, and
- 3) to conduct Marsh Island and Salvador WMA alligator harvests in the September season instead of July.

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 153

SUBMITTED BY

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SMITH

DURING THE 1999 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Regular Session, 1999

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Louisiana Alligator Task Force and to provide for its membership, powers, duties, and responsibilities, and to provide for submission of a report.

WHEREAS, the presence of alligators in the state of Louisiana enables our state to develop and promote an industry in this state that is unique and exceptional; and

WHEREAS, through the years, different strategies have been adopted to manage and promote the industry; and

WHEREAS, the industry appears to have reached a turning point in its development and expansion whereby population growth alone is no longer the primary focus but maintenance of the population and exploitation of national and international markets are the avenues to continued growth of the alligator industry; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated effort to examine the industry and its current status by representatives of the many components of the industry and the constituent groups that are impacted by decisions within the industry would be of great value to the industry and to the state in its development of policies relative to the alligator industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature does hereby create the Louisiana Alligator Task Force to examine issues relative to the alligator industry in the state of Louisiana and to make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

relative to development of policies to manage and coordinate effort in regard to those issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of seven members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as follows:

- (1) One member from the staff of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- (2) One member appointed to represent individual landowners.
- (3) One member appointed to represent alligator farmers.
- (4) One member appointed to represent wild alligator trappers.
- (5) One member appointed to represent corporate landowners.
- (6) One member appointed to represent wildlife biologists.
- (7) One member appointed to represent licensed dealers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall particularly examine issues relative to the appropriate amount for tag fees; a re-examination of the release ratios; a cost-benefit analysis of marketing efforts by the Fur and Alligator Advisory Council on behalf of the alligator industry; and an examination of the use of public education funds from the Alligator Resource Fund; however, the task force shall not be limited to an examination of only these issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make recommendations to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries through a report to the Fur and Alligator Advisory Council and submit copies of their report to the House and Senate committees on Natural Resources no later than September 30, 1999.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

LOUISIANA ALLIGATOR TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Phil Bowman - Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Staff (Chairman)

Zachary Casey - Alligator Farmers' Representative

Kermit Coulon - Corporate Landowners' Representative

Allan Ensminger - Individual Landowners' Representative

Ted Joanen - Wildlife Biologists' Representative

Johnny Price - Wild Alligator Trappers' Representative

Wayne Sagrera - Licensed Dealers' Representative

Louisiana's

Retail Education Program



By Christine Brewton

Even the best intentions can go awry when it comes to disseminating the correct facts about crocodilians. Many retailers' "education" programs generate misinformation, such as "all alligators are from Mississippi," because the genus species name is *Alligator mississippiensis*. Our program correctly educates sales persons, VP's, buyers and trainers on genuine Louisiana alligator. A synopsis of our presentation is as follows:

In the sixties, alligators were nearly extinct. There were less than 100,000 in Louisiana. Because of conservation efforts and a scientific management program, the alligator has been saved. Not only is it not endangered, there are now between one and two million alligators in Louisiana alone. A vital part of saving this species, its habitat, a culture and a way of life is economic. No economic incentive, no conservation program.

This holds true globally for many species. The alligator population is thriving, because it is worth something. The landowners protect their natural resource, the alligator. A small percentage of the population is culled each year (primarily non-breeding females and males), and part of the profits from the sale of these alligators go toward keeping the wetlands "wet and wild." With no economic incentive, the landowner might prefer to drain the marsh and grow cotton.

We teach that although it seems counter-intuitive, "buy a gator, save a gator," the economic incentive allows us to save the species by saving its habitat. When one factors in the 22 hands that alligator goes through from marsh to market, it is evident that many people depend on the success of the sustainable use program for their incomes as well as for their way of life.

In Louisiana, it's not uncommon to find seventh and eighth generation trappers, skinner and craftsmen in the alligator industry. Our trade records extend back over 200 years.

Alligator is coveted for its classic skins that are used to make the world's finest luxury items.

Timeless beauty as well as durability is a hallmark of genuine Louisiana alligator products. Each time someone buys an article made from genuine alligator, it's a contribution to insuring the future of the wetlands, home to thousand of species.

Migratory birds from South America are one species that benefits from alligators. The many alligator nests provide a source of food and water on their passage, even during drought, so they have enough nutrients to reproduce successfully. While it is true that some alligators are harvested commercially, the benefits to the species as a whole, and to their habitat, cannot be overstated.

An important topic that stores often request clarification on is the comparison of alligator to caiman. They want reasons for paying more for genuine American Alligator, and to better understand the quality of classic skins as opposed to caiman.

The caiman's misrepresentation as a classic skin has many negative ramifications. There are frequent examples of caiman adversely impacting the alligator market. A large upscale department store re-ordered less genuine alligator in 2001, because 38% of their caiman products were still on the shelf. They will not re-order caiman products and are cutting back on other exotics because of too much inventory. Exotics buyers who purchase caiman finished products are often disappointed in the skin's lack of durability. Although the lower price point is enticing, the inferior quality can discourage future purchases.

Numerous stores are having problems with mislabeling. Many stores refer to alligator as "croc" because it is cultural. All Europeans call alligator, "croc." Tod's genuine American alligator farm raised skins are tacked on the walls of their stores with signs that read "Louisiana Crocodile." However, with refunds being forced by customers angry about having purchased one product when they thought that they were buying another, stores are scrambling to get it right. The market seems self-correcting. Consumers are getting savvy, and a labeling faux pas will lose money and customers for the retailers.

We advocate calling it what it is, and getting over the cultural language prevarication, because all alligator is legal, while there are many different species of croc, some on the endangered list and not legal. Also, an alligator labeled as croc could be confiscated.

Gucci on Rodeo Drive paid a \$5,000.00 rebate to a customer who had purchased a "crocodile" jacket that a customs agent in the UK identified as alligator. Although the jacket was not confiscated, the customer's discontent affected the retailer's bottom line.

The success of the educational program

(relationship building) and the lucrative business that can be built (buyers voting with their pocketbook) is testimony to the fact that people buy what they believe in. The store buyers are influenced by their sales managers. Training, done correctly, encourages the stores to buy more genuine alligator products. Weaving our tale — our passion for alligator, its history and pageantry, vignettes of the wild hunts and other marsh to market stories — is essential to bolster the market.

It is interesting to note that even educated, highly fashion-conscious consumers often think they are buying genuine alligator when they actually are purchasing pressed calf. They falsely assume that the brand they are buying, (Gucci, Versace, etc.) guarantees that they are getting "the real thing." Many consumers have never compared the price of faux alligator with that of genuine alligator finished product.

On a final note, since September 11, many luxury retailers have slashed prices on their most expensive items in an effort to generate cash flow. Perhaps a letter could be drafted to buyers and CFO's stating that exotics discounts were a fiscal aberration, and they were not due to a lessening of consumer demand for finished products from classic skins such as genuine American alligator.



reastbone during inhalation, and ward it when the pigeon exhales,

covery of a similar mechanism in raised a question: Was the use of vic bones in breathing a trait that both ligators share with their prehistoric birds descended from dinosaurs; re the closest living relatives of armer said.

l Carrier propose that dinosaurs, nd their ancestors breathed with the scle that ran from the rocking pubic / ribs or other bones, pulling them to f the abdomen and aid breathing. the architecture of dinosaur pelvic orts the idea."

ies are very long, they're very thin," hey appear to be quite weak. They to have been able to support a lot of ou would expect from locomotion of s. And so we think maybe they played ething."

rs and dinosaurs descended from a cestor, yet gators rarely use the ey inherited with their pelvic bone irstead, alligators are "sit-and-wait at lurk quietly until they pounce on roaches too close.

othesis is dinosaurs were much more ey [alligators] have reverted back to it lifestyle," Farmer said.

ogists found the alligators took more per breaths while walking, compared , which must walk more slowly and y, taking frequent, shallow breaths. aid he and Farmer study breathing in ad extinct creatures because ling the history of how animals ery important to understanding why nals are built the way they are."

CONTACTS:

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Chain of Responsibility

By: Christine Brewster

A Louisiana Perspective



Government, big business and industry are all currently embracing a concept that hunters, trappers, and farmers in Louisiana advocated decades earlier. That concept is sustainable use. It is often bandied about, without a clear understanding of the responsibility that sustainable use actually entails.

Louisiana's alligator program was a huge first step toward sustainable use; it is a paradigm of responsibility and good stewardship for the rest of the world. A pivotal acknowledgment was that there was just too much to lose to not do something innovative. Enough people—landowners, trappers, and inhabitants of the marsh—cared about the habitat and the species they depended on for a living, to save it.

Spearheaded by scientist Ted Joanen, this program made use of natural capital. What emerged was a pro-investment brand of environmentalism in which everyone was a winner. Even preservationists have come to understand that economic incentive is a necessary inducement to protect a species and therefore a habitat. It's the upside potential of industrial ecology and now everyone is coming on board.

One ingredient vital to the success of these programs, and the continued success of our program, is the "chain of responsibility." From supplier to producer to consumer, maintaining integrity is tantamount to a program's success. Break the chain of responsibility, and you're left with cheap talk; business interests flattering themselves that they have the environmental solution when in fact all they have is a buzzword.

If everyone along the line accepts their responsibility—to habitat, environment and species—then we can have a win-win brand of environmentalism that provides profitability and

preservation. We can work in harmony with the environment and increase income.

Another important aspect of our "field guide to sustainability" is the free exchange of constructive, forward-looking ideas based on solid scientific research. We must address issues industry wide and work together. In order to flourish, the whole industry must work cohesively to solve problems.

Louisiana is #1 in the crocodilian world because we have all worked together. This must continue if we are to move forward in leaps and bounds. Enforcement, solid research and management strategies must work together to insure the alligator industry's health. Good cooperation between all producers and all industry people, tanners and manufacturers is a prerequisite for further growth.

A monopoly, especially one led by a group or individual who was not part of the chain of responsibility, could severely damage the well being of the alligator program. Greed, if allowed, can poison the best-laid plans.

In order not to jeopardize our position in the ecosystem, we also need to put back quality gators, decent animals that would fit in the overall scheme of the harvest. We can participate in creating an economic system consistent with how nature works. A lower size return would be beneficial, saving the farmers money and insuring a higher quality return.

What is needed now is the state working with the farmers, disseminating information and ideas regarding good animal husbandry. A free exchange of ideas and all working for a common good necessitates growth. Education and access to information is crucial, along with responsible actions and choices made by informed decision makers industry wide.

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

MAY 2002

REGION 1:MINDEN
18 Agent positions

**PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
 CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
 WEBSTER**

TOTAL CASES	167
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
67	Boating Safety
57	Angling W/O A Resident License
13	Angling W/O A License - Non-Resident
13	Fishing W/O A Resident Cane Pole License
2	Take Game Fish Illegally
2	Take Over Limit Of Undersize Catfish (Channel)
5	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Sell Fish W/O A Retail Dealer's License
1	Failure To Maintain Records
1	Resisting An Officer
1	Simple Possession Of Marijuana
2	Littering
1	Obtain License Fraudulently
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 27	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
18	Boating Safety
8	Angling W/O A Resident License
1	Angling W/O A License - Non-Resident

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
9 rod & reel combos; 1 LA fishing license; 1 pack cigarette papers; 1 plastic bag of marijuana; 8 black bass; 17 bream; 1 Ruger 22 cal firearm; 44 undersize channel catfish

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
67	Boating
2	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
92	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
27	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 2: MONROE
20 Agent positions

**PARISHES: E. CARROLL, JACKSON,
 LINCOLN, MOREHOUSE
 QUACHITA, RICHLAND
 UNION, W. CARROLL**

TOTAL CASES	91
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
52	Boating
23	Angle Without Resident License
2	Operate ATV ON Public Road
7	Fish Without Resident Pole License
1	Angle Without Non-Resident License
2	Possession Of Marijuana
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements
2	Littering
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 12	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Angle Without Resident License
7	Boating
2	Fail To Comply With Rules & Regulations on WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1-Canister containing 4 marijuana cigarettes.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
52	Boating
	Commercial Fishing
	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
33	Recreational Fishing
	State Hunting/Trapping
12	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
15	Public Assistance- Assisting Stranded Motorists and Boaters

REGION 3:ALEXANDRIA

**PARISHES:AVOUELLES, GRANT
NATCHITOCHE
RAPIDES, SABINE
VERNON, WINN**

26 Agent positions

TOTAL CASES	172
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
78	Boating
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
2	Take/Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman
1	Possess Commercial Gear W/O Commercial Gear License
33	Angle W/O A License
4	Angle W/O A License (Non-Resident)
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Regulations
2	Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally
10	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
4	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Take Spoonbill Catfish
1	Transport W/O Required License
1	Take/Possess Alligator Closed Season
1	Take/Possess Undersize Gamefish (Black Bass)
5	Conspiracy

2	Forgery
9	Littering
7	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Illegal Possession Of Marijuana
2	Standing/Jumping From Bridge
1	Aggravated Assault Of An Officer
4	Filing False Public Records

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL - 12	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
7	Boating
5	Angling W/O A License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 marijuana cigarettes, 1 shotgun, 1 spoonbill catfish, 53 trip tickets, 22 sales invoices, 1 3 ½' alligator, 1 black bass, 599lbs fish, 1 commercial license, 1 gear license, 1 \$183.00 check.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
78	Boating
5	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
9	Littering
22	Miscellaneous
58	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
12	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Public Assistance

REGION 4:FERRIDAY
24 Agent positions

PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA
CONCORDIA, FRANKLIN
LASALLE, MADISON, TENSAS

TOTAL CASES	78
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
40	Boating
16	Angling W/O A License
7	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
9	Fishing W/O A Cane Pole License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License
1	Take Or Possess Game Illegally
1	Frog In Closed Season
1	Possession of Live Non-Quadrupeds W/O Permit
1	DWI
1	BUI

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 17	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Angling W/O Resident License
12	Boating
1	Unattended/Untagged Reptile Trap

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
14 frogs; 3 crappie; 1 fox; 3 hoop nets.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
40	Boating
1	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
33	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
17	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

REGION 5: LAKE CHARLES
23 Agent positions

PARISHES: BEAUREGARD, CALCASIEU
EVANGELINE, ALLEN,
CAMERON, ACADIA,
VERMILION, JEFF DAVIS

TOTAL CASES	172
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
104	Boating
18	Angling W/O A Res. License
9	Angling W/O A Non. Res. License
2	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Take Or Poss. U/S Red Drum (Rec)
9	Take Or Poss. U/S Black Drum (Rec)
2	Take Or Poss. O/L Black Drum (Rec)
2	Failure To Have Comm. License In Poss.
1	Take Or Sell Comm. Fish Or Bait Species W/O Comm. Lic.
2	Take Comm. Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic.
1	Leave Nets Unattended
1	Blocking Passage Of Fish
2	Trawl In Restricted Areas
2	Take Shrimp Illegal Gear
1	Poss. Of Illegal Taken Deer Closed Season

1	Take Or Poss. Alligators C/S
1	Poss. Of Live Non Game Quadrupeds W/O Permit
1	Illegal Poss. Of Drugs Or Marijuana
4	Operate A Vessel While Intoxicated
1	Littering
5	Other Than Wildlife & Fisheries
1	Violation Of Probation Or License Revocation
1	Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	2	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1		Failure To Comply W/PFD Requirement
1		Failure To Display Valid Certificate Decal

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1- 20' aluminum boat; 1-80 hp yamaha; 1-25' trawl; 1-60' seine; 1-58' seine; 10- rods and 10 reels; 2- ice chest; 1-sport fishing license; 1-alligator tail; 1-bobcat; 1-deer; 1-bag of marijuana; 1-rolling paper; 360 lbs of shrimp for \$180.00; 30 blackdrum RTW; 16 – bream RTW; 1 white buffalo fish RTW; 1 spotted catfish RTW; 5 blue catfish RTW; 2 black bass RTW; 17 cans of beer; 1 bottle of beer; 1 white shovel; 1 small dip net; 1 black and white rake; 1 white 5 gallon bucket; 2 metal poles; 5 orange life jackets; 1 green rain coat bottoms; 2 cast nets; 12 shrimp crate boxes; 1 -12 gallon gas tank; 1 duralast battery; 1 green flashlight; 2 cans of OFF insect repellent.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
104	Boating
11	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
8	Miscellaneous
41	Recreational Fishing
3	State Hunting/Trapping
2	Written Warnings
4	Driving While Intoxicated (On Water)

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
2	Public Assistance

REGION 6:OPELOUSAS
24 Agent positions

PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
PT.COUPÉE,LAFAYETTE
ST.MARTIN,IBERIA
IBERVILLE,W.B.R.

TOTAL CASES	241
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
128	Boating
64	Angling W/O License
3	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements
3	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
12	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
7	Littering
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements
1	Set Crab Traps In Navigable Channel
2	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
1	Angling W/O Non-Resident License
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License
1	Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
1	Taking Overlimit Of Freshwater Gamefish

7	Trawl State Waters Closed Season
2	Set Crab Traps In Navigable Channel Or Entrance To Stream
2	Operating Vessel While Intoxicated
1	Threatening A Public Official

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 33	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
8	Boating
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
6	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
18	Angling W/O License In Possession

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
14 black bass, 7 beer cans, 4 crab traps, 1 rod and reel, 1 soda can, 1 chicken liver container, 1 small plastic bag containing zig zag rolling papers and marijuana, 4 trawls, 455 lbs. Shrimp, checks totaling \$683.60.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
128	Boating
13	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
7	Littering

6	Miscellaneous
87	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
33	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 7:BATON ROUGE**22 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,
W. FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	322
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
88	Angling W/O Basic Res. License
10	Angling W/O Basic Non-Res. License
1	Angling W/O Non. Res. Saltwater License
6	Angling W/O Pole License
208	Boating (1 D.W.I.)
3	Obtain License By Fraud
2	Littering
1	Trawling in Closed Season
1	Trawling Lake Ponchatrain Sanctuary
1	Illegal Possession of an Alligator
1	Buy/Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 20	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Angling W/O Res. License
15	Boating

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
1—Rod and Reel.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL CASES	DESCRIPTION
208	Boating
2	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
2	Miscellaneous
107	Recreational Fishing
1	State Hunting/Trapping
20	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
10	Public Assistance

REGION 8:NEW ORLEANS
18 Agent positions

**PARISHES: PLAQUEMINE,
 ORLEANS, JEFFERSON
 ST. CHARLES, ST. BERNARD**

TOTAL CASES	278
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
82	Boating
52	Angling W/O A License
13	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
1	Violate Recreational Gear Lic. Req.
1	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic. Non-Resident
2	Take/Poss. O/L Red Drum(On Water)
2	Poss. O/L of Red Drum In Excess of 27"(Recreational)
1	Fail to Have Fish Intact(Saltwater)
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum(Recreational)
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum(Recreational)
1	Commission Rules and Regs. (Misc) Snapper
4	Take/Poss. O/L Spotted Seatrout(On Water)
3	Possess over 50 Spotted Seatrout(off water)
3	Take or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Lic.
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic.
4	Take or Poss. Commercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic.

2	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's Lic.
1	Sell and/or Buy fish without a Retail Seafood Dealers License
1	Fail to Maintain Records
1	Fail to Maintain Records(Soft-shell Crab Facility)
4	Use Saltwater Net Illegally
1	Buy Commercial Fish from an Unlicensed Fisherman
1	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
1	Removing Contents from Legal Crab Traps
1	Allow Unlicensed fisherman use CML Vessel Lic.
1	Allow Unlicensed fisherman use CML Gear Lic.
1	Fail To Have Commercial Fish Intact
8	Fail to Comply with Spotted Seatrout
1	Take/Possess Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester Lic.
14	Trawling in Closed Season(Inside Waters)
27	Use Skimmers in Closed Season
4	Failure to Have Written Permission
1	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
12	Take Oysters From Unapproved Area(Polluted)
4	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off a Private Lease
3	Take Oysters Closed Season

7	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
1	Possession of Live Alligators W/O Permit
2	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated
1	Littering
3	Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries
1	Violation of Sanitation Code-Chapter 9

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 9	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Boating
1	Angling W/O A License
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum(Recreational)
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum(Recreational)

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
<p>Returned to water...Crabs (24, 2 boxes, 90 lbs.)...Alligator (1)...Oyster Sacks (99)...Live Marine Life (1 lb.)</p> <p>Destroyed...Red Drum (1)... Black Drum(1)...Rabbits(9)...Croaker(48)</p> <p>Sold at bid...420 lbs. Shrimp Sold @bid \$297.50...50 lbs. Shrimp Sold @bid \$32.50...16lbs. Shrimp Sold @bid \$24.00...73 lbs. Shrimp Sold @bid \$51.10</p> <p>Donated...Red Drum (17)...Crabs (6 boxes)...Shrimp (268 lbs.)...Shark(4000 lbs)...Shark fins(285)...Spotted Sea Trout(2 lbs, 1496)...White Trout(9)...Croaker(1)...Red Fish Fillets(4 lbs)...Soft Shell Crabs(16)...Flounder(4)...Live Marine Life(45 lbs.)</p> <p>Hardware Confiscated...Skimmer Nets(14)...Crab Traps(16)...Rod n Reel(12)...Trawl(7)...Trip ticket(2)...Rifle(2)...Folding Knife(1)...5 cell mag light(1)...Dredge(8)...Flatboat(1)...Purchase sales records(4)...Vessel(1).</p>

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
82	Boating
98	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
6	Miscellaneous
83	Recreational Fishing
8	State Hunting/Trapping
9	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
9	Public Assistance

REGION 9: SCHRIEVER
25 Agent positions

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, ST. JAMES, ST. JOHN, ST. MARY
 TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE
 JEFFERSON-GRAND ISLE
 LOWER ST. MARTIN**

TOTAL CASES	210
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
83	Boating
47	Angling Without A License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
3	Angling Without Saltwater License
2	DWI (On Water)
2	Littering
4	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
3	Take Undersized Red Drum (Recreational)
3	Take Undersized Black Drum (Recreational)
2	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
7	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial License
1	Take Over Limit Blue Crabs
5	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Skimmers)
1	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Crab Traps)
2	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Trawls)
4	Take Commercial Fish Without Vessel License

1	Buy Fish Without Wholesale/Retail/Dealer's License (Non-Resident)
2	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Transport Without Required License (Resident)
2	Transport Without Required License (Non-Resident)
2	Possess Undersized Crabs (Commercial-Hard)
1	Fail To Mark Softshell Crab Container
2	Butterflying In Closed Season
15	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
5	Trawling In Closed Season (Inside Waters)
2	Trawling Inside Waters W/Oversized Double Rigs
2	Violate Shrimp Provisions (Anchoring In Oyster Bayou)
4	Violation Of Sanitary Code (No Harvester Log Sheet)
1	Violate Sanitary Code (Refrigeration)

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 42	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
21	Boating
3	Angling Without A License
5	Fish Without A Resident Pole License
2	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
11	Angling Without Saltwater License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
17,676 lbs shrimp sold \$12,108.80, 85 lbs shrimp, 1160 lbs crabs, 107 sacks oysters, 5 red drum, 5 black drum, 8 black bass, 12 soft shell crabs, 18 skimmer nets, 5 trawl nets, 1 driver's license, 1 vessel license, 4 commercial gear licenses, 1 shrimp fee license, 4 boats and motors (paper seizure).	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
83	Boating
48	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
7	Miscellaneous
70	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
42	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
8	Public Assistance

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE
3 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	29
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
1	Fail To Display Proper Number On Vessel
4	Violate Sanitary Code Chapter 9
4	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
1	Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Vessel License
3	Trawling Closed Season
4	Use Skimmers Closed Season
1	Angling W/O A Basic License
1	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
3	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum
3	Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum
1	Littering

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
60 lbs. of blue crabs, 110 sacks of oysters, 15,689.64 lbs. of shrimp, 2 skimmer nets and 2 trawls.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
2	Boating
18	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
8	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT
8 Agent positions

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	32
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Angling W/O A Basic License - Non-Resident
1	Angling W/O A Saltwater License -- Non-Resident
2	Take Over Limit Greater Amberjack
3	Take Over Limit Cobia
3	Take Over Limit Shark Fin
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Gear License
5	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
5	Fail To Maintain Records
3	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
1	Fail To Comply With Law in EEZ
2	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
1	Fail To Pay Shrimp Severance Tax
1	Fail To Pay Oyster Severance Tax
2	License Fraud

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
Donated: 8 Cobia, 33 Mangrove Snapper, 4 Greater Amberjack, 2 Triger Fish, 2 Red Snapper Returned To The Water: 300 lbs. U/S Crabs

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
28	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
4	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

S.W.E.P.
8 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	39
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
30	Skimming In Closed Season
8	Trawl In Closed Season
1	No Vessel License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
18 Skimer Nets, 1 25ft. Trawl, 940 lbs. Shrimp sold for \$740.00

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
39	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

NOTE: 140 HOURS RUNNING TIME
195 BOATS CHECKED

REFUGE PATROL
8 Agent positions

MARSH ISLAND,
ROCKEFELLER, STATE
WILDLIFE

TOTAL CASES	91
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
30	Boating
4	Angling W/O A Basic Fishing License
2	Angling W/O A Basic Fishing license (Non-Resident)
8	Littering
28	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On A WMA
8	Trawl State Waters Closed Season
3	Set Crab Traps In Navigable Channel Or Entrance To Stream
6	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum
1	Destroy Legal Crab Traps Or Remove Contents
1	Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 7	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
6	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
1	Angling W/O A Basic License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
2 rod and reels, 4 crab traps, 2 trawls, 171 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$351.00, 27 black drum, 1 red drum, and 253 blue crabs.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REFUGE PATROL

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
30	Boating
12	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
8	Littering
28	Miscellaneous
13	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
7	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
10	Public Assistance

TOTAL CASES = 1922

NOTE: WRITTEN WARNINGS = 181

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
MAY, 2002

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 54.7

185-Float - 9667Q
Hrs. - 42.4

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 3.9

Enforcement Hours - 89.2

Other Divisions - 11.8

Total Plane Use - 101.0

Cases Made In Conjunction With Aircraft Use Resulted In Citations Issued For:

6-Skimming Inside Water Closed Season

2-Trawl Inside Water Closed Season

8-Total

Confiscations: 14 Trawls, 3,000 Lbs. Of Shrimp

* - Cancelled

**MONTHLY REPORT
ENFORCEMENT DIVISION - HUNTER EDUCATION SECTION
DATE - May 2002**

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Total
Total Hunter Education Courses Taught Statewide									10
Total Students Certified Statewide in Hunter Education									540
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Volunteers	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	2	7
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Coordinators	*	1	1	1	0	0	0	*	3
Number Hunter Education Courses Assised by Coordinator	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	3
Number Hunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	37	73	73	12	0	0	345	540
Bowhunter Education Courses Taught by Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Bowhunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Hunter Education Instructors Courses	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Number Hunter Education Instructors Certified	0	8	0	0	0	6	0	0	14

Boating Courses
No. Certified

*

*

1

*

0

1

0

1

3

12

15

9

36

/



Mr. Phil Bowman
Assistant Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Subject: Proposed Ban on Commercial Activities in Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

Dear Mr. Bowman:

The Beau Rivage Resort operates commercial hunting activities from its floating Sportsman's Lodge during duck season each year. This past November through January the Lodge operated from property owned by Mr. Donald Delesdernier and located approximately 13 miles south of Venice near the Pass a Loutre WMA. As a result, we feel that it is prudent for us to monitor the activities of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Recently we became aware of a notice of intent to consider amending the regulations to ban commercial activities in WMA that will be voted on by the commission on July 2. The Beau Rivage would like to comment on this matter in hopes of persuading the commission to vote against the proposed ban.

This past season the Sportsman's Lodge hosted 180 hunters, of which, approximately 90% were residents of states other than Louisiana. A majority of these individuals would not have hunted the Pass a Loutre WMA without a guide due to its remote location and immense size. We calculate that at our Lodge this past season, the direct economic impact to the State of Louisiana from these hunters was approximately \$60,000, including over \$22,000 in direct licensing fees. The indirect impact of these out-of-state guests on the local Venice economy is equally as significant.

The enormous size of the Pass a Loutre WMA lends itself to be enjoyed by many people at the same time, locals and out-of-state sportsman alike. We firmly believe that both groups can coexist with the proper enforcement of the regulations as they currently exist.

A ban on commercial activities will, in effect, reserve the entire WMA area for a small group to the detriment of the many sportsman who are not familiar with the area but desire to hunt its vast resources with the help of a guide.

For these reasons we respectfully request that the commission continue to allow commercial activities in the Pass a Loutre WMA.

If you have any questions about the Sportsman's Lodge or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Nourse, Director of Public Affairs, at 228-386-7157.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dahl
President and COO

RECEIVED
SECRETARY

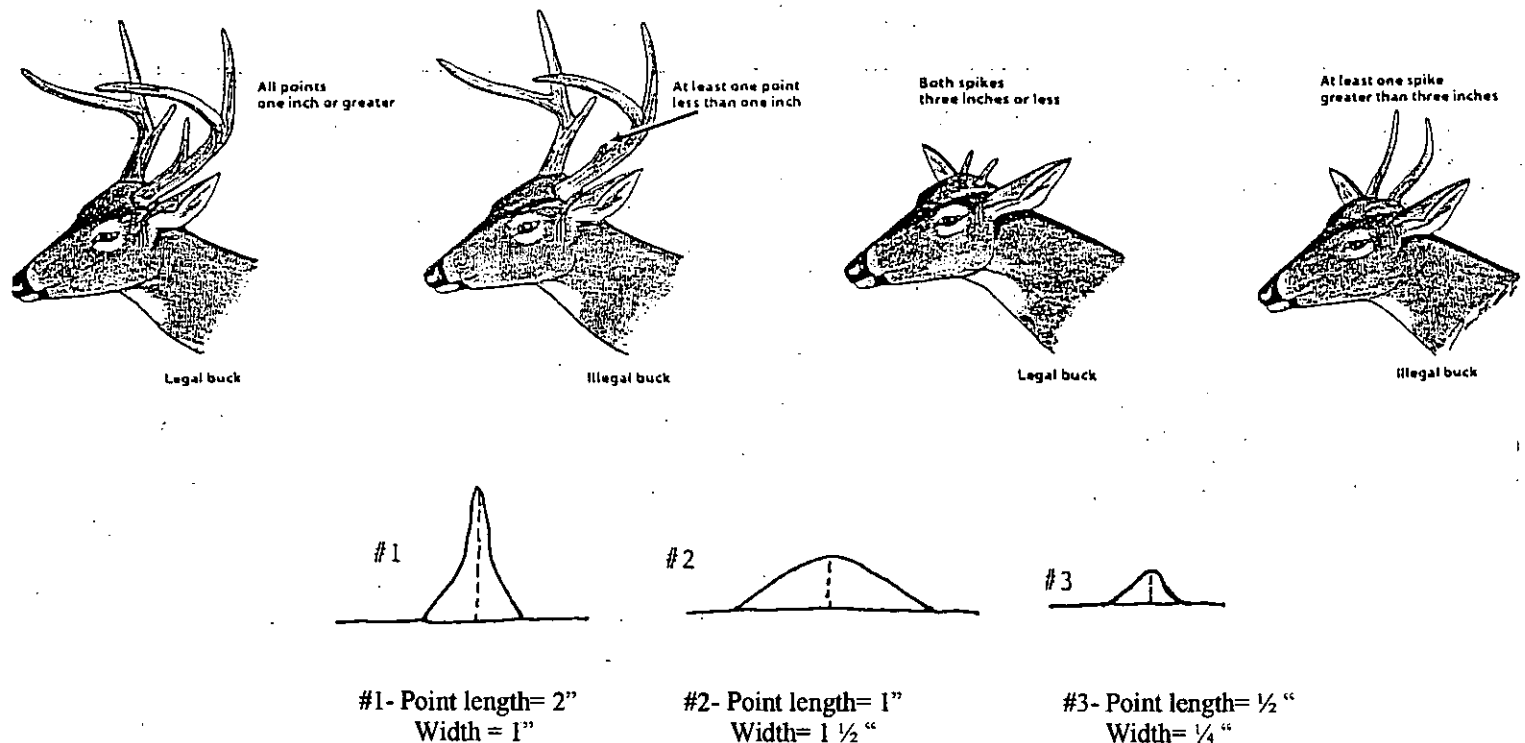
Tri-Parish Six Point Experiment, Rules and Regulations

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has established an experimental deer season with antler restrictions in the parishes of Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge. The following rules and regulations shall pertain to this experimental season:

Boundaries: The boundaries for this experimental season shall be all lands west of the Mississippi River in Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge Parishes, **Except** for the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area Complex and those private lands owned by Adams and Summers, which are totally surrounded by the Sherburne complex. Experimental antler restrictions do not apply to that portion of Iberville Parish east of the MS River.

Antler Regulations: During the 2002/03 Deer Hunting Season, in the lands described above, only bucks with six or more points, or spikes having both spikes three inches or less, are considered legal bucks and may be harvested by hunters during the deer season, **Except** any buck is legal during the Special Youth Deer Hunt (Either-sex), Nov. 9-10, on private lands in the parishes of this experiment. The definition for a legal point is a projection that is at least **one inch long**, and the length is longer than the width of the base. The beam tip counts as a legal point. A legal spike is a buck with **both spikes three inches or less**; spikes with one spike three inches or less and one spike longer than three inches are not legal and may not be shot, except during the special youth deer hunt.

Violation Penalties: Violation of any of the provisions of the rules and regulations of this experimental season is a Class Two Violation. The fine for a first offense of a Class Two Violation is a fine, not less than one hundred dollars nor more than three hundred fifty dollars, or imprisonment for not more than sixty days, or both.



Example #1 is a legal point, the length is longer than the width of the base; Example #2 is not a legal point, the length is not longer than the width of the base; Example #3 is not a legal point, the length is not one inch long.

PETITION FOR PROPOSED RESOLUTION AFFECTING AREA 8,
ALLEN PARISH, BEAUREGARD PARISH, LOUISIANA

The below is a proposed resolution for which the residents of area 8, Allen Parish, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana desire the governing authority, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fishery Department (LWFD), to change area 8 back to area 2 regulations.

It is **agreed** by my signature affixed hereto that I desire and am in favor of the LWFD issuing a resolution to change area 8 back to area 2 regulations:

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AREA 8

I, a resident of area 8, desire that the "opening day" of squirrel season and the opening day of "deer season" be set in accordance with Area 2 regulations.

I, the below signed, am very much concerned for the safety of hunters with both seasons opening on the same day.

Having read the above proposed resolution, I desire the governing authority of LWFD, to act in accordance therewith. Let it be known that my signature hereto represents my full and complete agreement to the above resolution.

I certify that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and a registered voter. I am a resident of the Area 8 (LWFD) hunting district. Further, that I have read the above proposed resolution, affixing my signature freely and without duress.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE SIGNED</u>
Albert Sanchez	P.O. 1341 Oberlin, LA	3-18-02
Kenneth Taylor	P.O. Box 1159 Oberlin LA	3-18-02
Roy O'Connor	P.O. Box 1001 Oberlin LA	3-18-02
Nichelle O'Connor	P.O. Box 1001 Oberlin LA	3-18-02
Eric Langley	P.O. Box 175 Oberlin LA	3-19-02
Philip S. Dwyer	612 - 8TH AVE.	3-19-02
Chris McLaughlin	P.O. Box 616 Oberlin, LA	3-19-02
R. L. Dorman	P.O. Box 750 Oberlin, La	3/19/02
Michael M. M. M.	P.O. Box 929 Oberlin La	3/19/02
Scott Taylor	P.O. Box 13 Oberlin LA	3-19-02
Michael J. Dwyer	P.O. Box 1188 Oberlin LA	3-19-02
Michael Taylor	P.O. Box 522 Oberlin, LA	3-19-02
Richard Reeves	335 Cole Road Kinder La	3/20/02
James W. W.	P.O. Box 1161 Oberlin	3-20-02
Terry Taylor	P.O. Box 1226 Oberlin	3-21-02
Raymond Dwyer	P.O. Box 1009 Oberlin	3-21-02
Nichelle Taylor	P.O. Box 1024 Oberlin	3-21-02
Denise Dorman Sr.	P.O. Box 975 - Oberlin LA	3-22-02
Denise Dorman Jr.	P.O. Box 975 Oberlin LA	3-22-02
Carl Dwyer	P.O. Box 355 Oberlin La	3-22-02
Al Allie Jr.	919 Neville Vigne Rd. Oberlin	3-25-02
Ushany Bellard	239 N. Perkins Freeway Rd	3-26-02
Ethan R. R.	P.O. 643 Kinder La 70648	3-26-02
David Fontenot	531 Dupuchon Rd. Oberlin 70655	4-19-02
Brennan Fontenot	Dupuchon Road Oberlin 70655	4-19-02

Dallas Thomas	P.O. Box 1201	3-26-02
Roger L. Lys	114 Jared Rd. Ragley	3-26-02
James Young	P.O. Box 107 LeBlanc	3-26-02
David Simmons	P.O. Box 165 Rosepine	3-26-02
Damon Cooley	5285 Hwy 26 De Ridder	3-26-02
Steven Stoltz	P.O. Box 203 LeBlanc	3-28-02
Russell Beithard	3217 St. St.	4-20-02
Lee U. Thomas	P.O. Box 1227	4-10-02
Blackie LeBlanc	P.O. Box 955	4/10/02
Joan Marie	79 H. Willis Rd	4-11-02
Benjamin D. Johnson	222 Freedom Rd Pitkin	4-11-02
Lavie Marie	9755 Hwy 112 Gretna	4-11-02
James Bullett	105 Boundary Woodworth	4-11-02
Sam Spivey	290 White Rd	4-12-02
Ronald C. Cully	108 W 6th Street	4-12-02
Dwight R. Jones	P.O. Box 149 Oberlin	4-12-02
R. Dineen	P.O. Box 861 Oberlin	4-12-02
Robert Smith	1082 E 6th Ave Oberlin	4-11-02
Joe J. Hahn	170 Dupont Rd. Oberlin	4-11-02
Christopher	113 Apple Rd. Oberlin	
James M. M.	1620 Hwy 383, Kinder 70648	4/12/02
Bonnie Marie G. G.	7215 Hwy 26 Kinder	4-12-02
Allyson F. Kellen	531 Hill St. Eunice, La	4-14-02
Kelly B. K.	P.O. Box 152	4-14-02
James C. K.	531 Hill St. Eunice, La	4-14-02
Donald J. Furelier	P.O. Box 851 Oberlin	4-14-02
John O. Bestrom	P.O. Box 573	4-15-02
Arthur Lee Bestrom	P.O. Box 244	4-15-02
Michael G. Fabela	103 N. 15th St. Oakdale	4-16-02
Michael S. Fabela	103 N. 15th St. Oakdale	4-16-02
Ernest Paul Fabela	P.O. Box 1019 Gretna	4-16-02
Kevin Mearston	P.O. Box 752 Oberlin, La. 70555	4-17-02
Jimmy C. C.	P.O. Box 1141 Oberlin 70566	4-17-02
Jeff L. L.	P.O. Box 1152 Kinder 70648	523-0217
Michael H. H.	271 Eloi Orlan Rd Kinder 70648	540-0931
Rodney M. Marcanto	P.O. Box 809 Kinder La. 70648	4-19-2002
Wallace J. O.	P.O. Box 1442 Kinder La. 70648	4-19-2002
Don W. W.	P.O. Box 1105, Kinder La.	4-19-2002
Sanford L. L.	222 Cherokee St. Kinder 70648	4-19-2002
Daniel Marcanto	P.O. Box 809 Kinder La. 70648	4-19-02
Brandon Marcanto	P.O. Box 809 Kinder La. 70648	4-19-02
Ross Miller	P.O. Box 809 Kinder 70648	4-19-02
Wallace J. J.	2878 Hwy 383	4/19/02
Richard O. Sommer	P.O. Box 905, Kinder La.	4-19-02
Rich Sommer II	P.O. Box 905, Kinder La.	4-19-02
Jack Love Joy	P.O. Box 905, Kinder La.	4-19-02

PETITION FOR PROPOSED RESOLUTION AFFECTING
AREA 8, ALLEN PARISH, BEAUREGARD PARISH, LOUISIANA

The below is a proposed resolution for which the residents of area 8, Allen Parish, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana desire the governing authority, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fishery Department (LWFD), to change area 8 back to area 2 regulations.

It is **agreed** by my signature affixed hereto that I desire and am in favor of the LWFD issuing a resolution to change area 8 back to area 2 regulations:

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AREA 8

I, a resident of area 8, desire that the "opening day" of squirrel season and the opening day of "deer season" be set in accordance with Area 2 regulations.

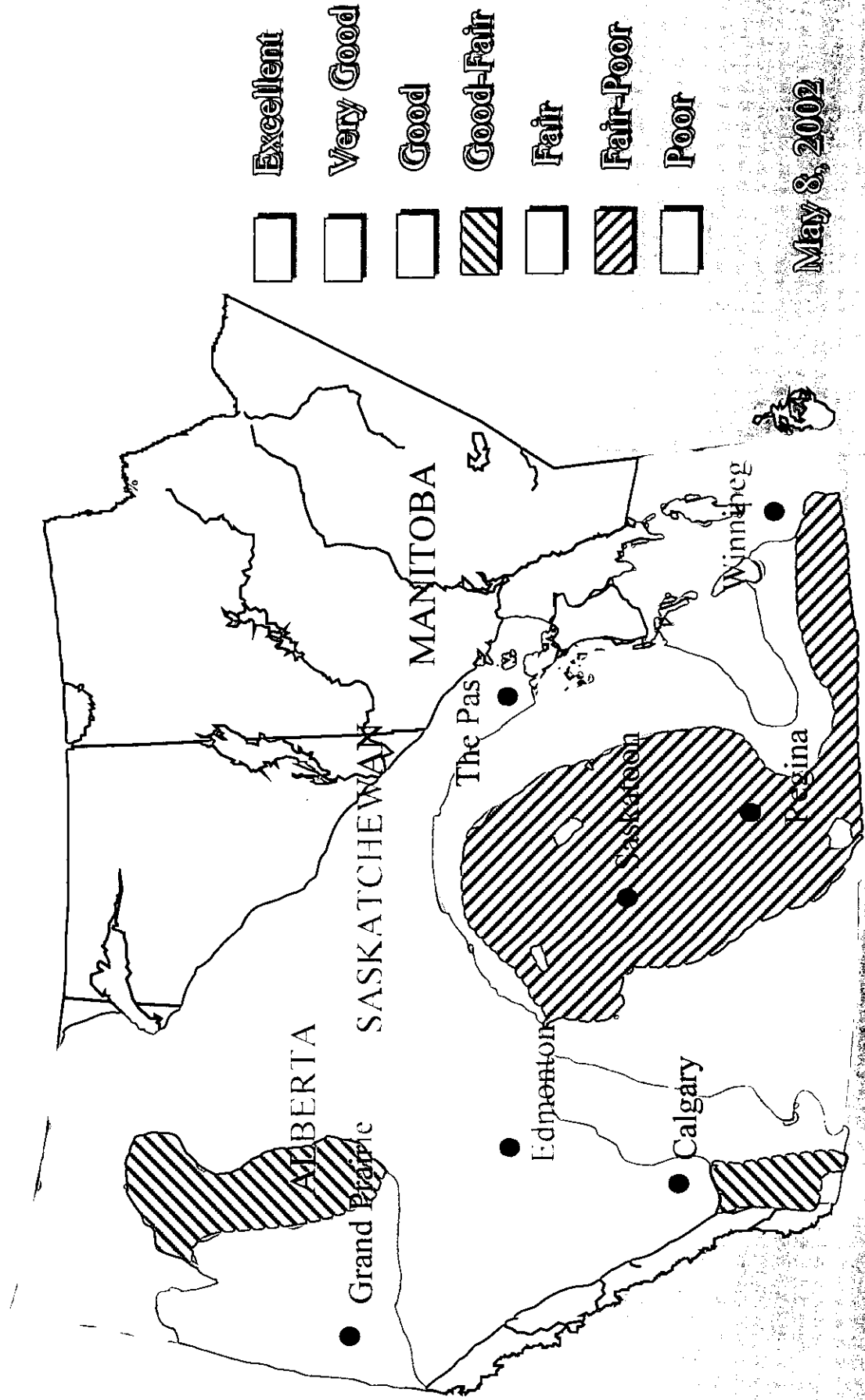
I, the below signed, am very much concerned for the safety of hunters with both seasons opening on the same day.

Having read the above proposed resolution, I desire the governing authority of LWFD, to act in accordance therewith. Let it be known that my signature hereto represents my full and complete agreement to the above resolution.

I certify that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and a registered voter. I am a resident of the Area 8 (LWFD) hunting district. Further, that I have read the above proposed resolution, affixing my signature freely and without duress.

[illegible]

PRAIRIE CANADA BREEDING HABITAT CONDITIONS



May 8, 2002



NEWS RELEASE

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

193 Business Park Drive, Suite E, Ridgeland, MS 39157-6026
601-956-1936 • www.ducks.org

Contact: Tom Moorman
(601) 956-1936
(601) 206-5447
tmoorman@ducks.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ducks Unlimited answers why ducks have not arrived in the winter that wasn't

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 18, 2002--Waterfowlers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have noticed a significant decrease in the number of ducks they have seen this year compared to years prior, and consequently, the number of birds harvested.

This past year and during the middle and late 1990s, high waterfowl populations led to excellent waterfowl hunting across the four-state area. This year, most hunters have been frustrated, surprised to see so few birds at their usually reliable honey-holes.

"Where are the birds?" is the million-dollar question that Ducks Unlimited staff has been asked constantly.

"Veteran duck hunters already know the answer to the million-dollar question," says Ken Babcock, Director of Operations for Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office in Jackson, Mississippi. "Though they live in the South, they have been watching northern weather conditions closely and know that the birds have not migrated south because this winter has been warm, almost balmy, as far north as the Dakotas. Consequently, wetlands in the Midwest still have open water and good food sources that have not been covered by snow."

The heartland of America serves as a typical example of temperatures this winter. The average high temperature in Kansas City in December was 47 degrees Fahrenheit, and it has been in the 40s through the first 15 days of January. There was a brief cold spell at the very end of December and during the first week of January, but even then the highs were still in the middle to upper 20s.

"That's just not cold enough to force ducks to move south, particularly when there is abundant food not covered by snow. The Midwest has had little or no snow so far this winter," says Babcock. "Mallards in particular will not leave areas where food is available unless cold weather freezes the wetlands and snow covers food sources like waste grain."

"Mallards stay as far north as habitat conditions allow every winter," says Tom Moorman, Ph.D., Director of Conservation Planning for Ducks Unlimited. "Healthy mallards store fat reserves that allow them to withstand short bouts of severe weather for up to seven days. Ice and snow cover that lasts longer than that will force them to move south in search of open water and food.

"In most years, Mother Nature gives the Midwest an arctic cold front with snow that arrives in December or January and persists for several weeks," Moorman continues. "This year, she has given Midwesterners a break from harsh winter with no major outbreaks of cold and or snowstorms. In so doing, she has given southern waterfowlers a frustrating lesson in waterfowl biology: Weather conditions still drive the onset of migration in the fall and determine where the birds will spend that winter."

In mild winters, even when there is a short period of cold weather, birds may remain put as long as there is no snow to cover their food. Even if the cold periods are strong enough to move birds south, the birds will move back north if the duration of the cold spell is short.

Many of the birds simply never flew south this year, as evidenced by annual inventory counts conducted by state and federal agencies. The Mid-Winter Inventory count was flown in the South from January 7-11. Louisiana results are typical: Its habitat is supporting about 3.3 million birds this year, in contrast to last winter's inventory of more than 5 million.

"Counts are down, yes, but there is yet another variable that has contributed to the sportsmen's dilemma this year," says Curtis Hopkins, Ph.D., Director of Conservation Programs for Ducks Unlimited. "Rainfall. Heavy rainfall. We saw more than 9 inches of rain in a three-day period in late November across much of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

"Heavy rain has produced some of the most extensive flooding of lowland forest and agricultural land the region has seen in several winters," he says. "Consequently, habitat conditions for waterfowl in the region have been superb, really great for ducks, but really frustrating for duck hunters. Hunters might be able to find a concentration of birds to hunt, but the minute they begin to shoot, the birds head toward puddles with no hunting pressure. Since there is so much water on the ground, that could be just about anywhere."

Given the weather conditions throughout the Midwest, it is likely that waterfowl are scattered across a wide range of mid- and southern latitudes. The abundance of flooded bottomland and agricultural land in the Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana further scatters the birds in the region, making it one of the more frustrating hunting seasons in recent years, even though continental populations are still relatively high.

(continued)

"It has been a frustrating year for southern duck hunters, and you can tell it by talking to some of the diehard waterfowlers in our office," says Babcock. "We have guys who have really worked hard to get on birds this year, and they are averaging maybe one or two birds per hunt, with a lot of days when no shots were fired at all."

"This year hunters really need to be dedicated and willing to work to get on birds, and need to be grateful for the opportunity to hunt versus shoot ducks," Moorman says. "Mother Nature will always have surprises in store for us in some years, but for what it is worth, I think that that is what makes us really appreciate the good years," adds Moorman. "We have no choice but to endure the tough years and look to the future for better hunting."

"As we look to the future, we need to stay focused on the most important issue for waterfowl," Babcock says, "and that is habitat conservation. Early indications tell us that the breeding grounds in Canada and in the Dakotas are swinging toward a dry cycle, and that means continental populations may start to decline. We need to do everything we can to conserve waterfowl habitat so we can maintain healthy populations of birds like we have had in recent years. Our best hope to have healthy waterfowl populations tomorrow is if we all work together to conserve their habitat today.

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

193 Business Park Drive, Suite E
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
(601) 956-1936 Office
(601) 956-7814 Fax

From the desk of.....

February 8, 2002

Ken Babcock
Director of Operations

Open Letter to DU members, volunteers, staff and fellow waterfowl hunters:

There are rumors afoot among the waterfowl hunting community in parts of several Southern states that are so far-fetched that until now we have elected not to address them.

I'm referring to the notion that Ducks Unlimited has somehow promoted, funded, participated in, or otherwise had a hand in feeding ducks up north to shortstop and prevent them from migrating to wintering areas further south, in the Mississippi Flyway. **These Allegations Are Totally False!** The accusation is so far removed from what DU is all about that we've not paid it much attention. However, it appears these preposterous rumors are spreading like wildfire and it's time to pour cold water on them once and for all! The suggestion that Ducks Unlimited, the one waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization that has worked tirelessly for the last 65 years to put habitat on the ground in every flyway throughout North America, would engage in such activity is totally inconsistent with DU's mission, its history, or past actions. When you think about it, it makes absolutely no sense---economically, biologically, or practically. Why would DU do anything that would take hunting opportunity away from our loyal membership in the South? A high percentage of DU's membership is in this region and our members are our customers. Why would we do anything that would be a dis-service to our customers?

Hunters in northern portions of the Central and Mississippi Flyways had a relatively good duck season. Most southern hunters did not. But, as any seasoned waterfowl hunter will tell you, hunting success has more to do with the weather than anything else. Many southern waterfowlers were discouraged about not seeing more ducks in the South this past hunting season. This was on the heels of an excellent season last year, brought about by severe weather north of us.

George Vandell, Assistant Director with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks reports that waterfowl hunters in northern and mid-latitude states had one of the best duck hunting seasons they can remember but that's not because Ducks Unlimited, or anybody else for that matter, fed them. Most of South Dakota's ducks have moved farther south now but that's because most of their wetlands are finally frozen and the fields are covered with snow.

Jerry Conley, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, scoffed at the notion that DU would have anything to do with artificially feeding waterfowl in his state. In Jerry's words, "DU has played a critical role in helping our department develop top-quality waterfowl and wetland habitat throughout Missouri over the last 20 years. The success our waterfowl hunters enjoyed this past season was the product of years of work to establish a network of conservation areas that offers waterfowl everything they need to exist for as long as the weather permits. Once those wetlands freeze over or the surrounding food resources become depleted or covered with snow, they move on. This past duck season none of that occurred and as a result, we had ducks all season long... and still do for that matter!"

Many of the birds, primarily mallards, simply never flew south this year, as evidenced by annual inventory counts conducted by state and federal agencies. The Mid-Winter Inventory count was flown in the South from January 7-11. Louisiana results are typical: Its habitat is supporting about 3.3 million birds this year, in contrast to last winter's inventory of more than 5 million.

Not only are the counts down due to abnormal migration but also heavy rains in parts of the South produced some of the most extensive flooding of lowland forest and agricultural land the region has seen in several winters. More than 9 inches of rain fell in a three-day period in late November across much of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. As a result, waterfowl habitat conditions in the region were superb.....really great for ducks, but really frustrating for duck hunters. I know this is little consolation for those of us who lost count of the number of times we came home from our blind with little more than another "great outdoor experience," but we should not lose sight of why we belong to Ducks Unlimited and give so generously of our time, energy and resources. We should take comfort in the fact that continental populations of most waterfowl species are still at or above long-term goals. As we look to the future, we need to stay focused on the most important issue for waterfowl.... and that is habitat conservation. Early indications tell us that the breeding grounds in Canada and in the Dakotas are swinging toward a dry cycle, and that means continental populations may start to decline. We need to do everything we can to conserve waterfowl habitat so we can maintain healthy populations of birds like we have had in recent years. Our best hope to have healthy waterfowl populations tomorrow is if we all work together to conserve their habitat today.

DU is a volunteer-driven organization with over 1 million supporters in the United States. We have raised over \$1.4 billion in our 65-year history and conserved more than 10 million acres of wetland habitat throughout Canada, the United States and Mexico. DU's mission is to support the annual life-cycle needs of North America's waterfowl by protecting, restoring, enhancing and managing important wetlands and associated uplands. We're proud that 83 cents out of every dollar we raise goes into habitat conservation. I can assure you that DU is focused on its mission and that we would not under any circumstances, engage in, promote or direct any of our member's funds toward the artificial feeding of waterfowl in an attempt to alter waterfowl migration routes or timing. It's time to get on with more important matters. I encourage every one of you to squelch these rumors whenever the opportunity arises and to re-focus your attention, and that of your friends, colleagues, and even our detractors, back onto what DU is really all about....the conservation of North America's waterfowl and wetland resources!



DUCKS
UNLIMITED
INC.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

193 Business Park Drive, Suite E
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
(601) 956-1936 Office
(601) 956-7814 Fax

April 29, 2002

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for the correspondence we received from you March 22, 2002. We appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Your concern about why most ducks did not fly as far south this winter is shared by others. Many have drawn inaccurate conclusions about Ducks Unlimited's conservation efforts within the Mississippi Flyway. Our mission and our conservation work has remained constant over the decades; we have not changed our strategies and did not do anything different this past year that would have inhibited migration in a normal winter. As you know, this past winter was not "normal" in that we experienced the warmest weather in more than 100 years. I would suggest that the weather had a lot to do with the poor duck season you experienced this past year.

Our best hope for bountiful winter waterfowl populations in the future is for all of us to continue to restore and maintain wetland habitat all along the Mississippi Flyway. We must provide good winter habitat in all of the states between Louisiana and Canada because the birds must eat and rest along the way in order to make it this far south! That Ducks Unlimited would deliberately "hold" birds in northern states is a ludicrous concept and the antithesis of our mission and purpose. Think about it: We live here in the south just like you, and we hunt here too.

You may be surprised to learn how many projects DU has completed in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (the "Delta") to provide the very best possible wintering habitat right here, in your own back yard. Hundreds of thousands of acres are in varying stages of restoration, even as I write this letter to you.

The Delta and the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana have been designated as two of the top five highest priority regions in North America under the Ducks Unlimited Conservation Plan, our roadmap to continental wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The Delta also has been designated one of the seven highest priority regions in North America by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international plan to restore waterfowl populations to those of the 1970s.

Ducks Unlimited has launched an umbrella initiative under which to accomplish these goals. The acronym **River CARE** stands for **Conservation of Agriculture, Resources, and the Environment**. This major initiative consolidates all state, federal and private efforts in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley under one umbrella.

By 2005, Ducks Unlimited's River CARE initiative will help conserve more than 350,000 additional acres of waterfowl habitat in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. To reach that goal, Ducks Unlimited is restoring the hydrology of former wetland areas, cooperating in projects that restore bottomland hardwood forests, assisting landowners in developing seasonal wetlands on agricultural lands, natural areas and wetlands forests, and providing technical assistance to agencies, corporations and individuals involved in waterfowl habitat conservation.

River CARE focuses on the Delta regions of southern Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana—originally encompassing nearly 24 million acres of wetland habitat. Between 1950 and 1976, about one-third of the Delta bottomland forest was converted to agriculture. Today only about 20 percent of the original forested wetlands remain.

Ducks Unlimited and its conservation-minded partners believe that it is both realistic and necessary to reforest 2 million acres in the next 20 years. That's about 100,000 acres of reforestation per year at a cost of about \$75 million per year.

To accomplish this, Ducks Unlimited has numerous programs and conservation projects under way in every state of the Delta region. I thought you might be interested to know what DU had accomplished in Louisiana to protect, restore, and enhance waterfowl habitat in the Bayou State. In Louisiana alone, DU has completed 2,209 projects and conserved more than 173,836 acres of wetland habitat at a cost of more than \$13 million.

First, Ducks Unlimited works with private landowners through its Louisiana Waterfowl Partners program. This partnership involves the landowner, DU, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Each partner contributes cash, in-kind assistance or materials. Since the program's inception in 1992, about 55,000 acres of seasonal wetlands, comprising various habitat types, have been restored. In addition, technical assistance has been provided to improve more than 260,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

A second program that restores wetlands in Louisiana is the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Since 1996, Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help deliver their program in about 20 other states. Each of the partners – the landowner, DU, NRCS – are responsible for certain aspects of the program. Much of the cost to enroll the associated easements and undertake the reforestation or hydrology restoration work is borne by NRCS; however, DU has contributed cash and in-kind services to implement these practices. This program is so popular with landowners that only 1 out of every 5 landowners is able to enroll in WRP due to a lack of federal funding for this program. In Louisiana alone, Ducks Unlimited has restored and enhanced 40,700 acres of wetlands involving

132 landowners. In addition, DU has provided technical assistance on another 29,000 acres under the WRP partnership.

A third program involves protecting existing wetlands through conservation easements. Ducks Unlimited uses conservation easements to partner with private landowners to protect valuable wetland resources. Conservation easements can meet the needs of interested owners of working farms, ranches, timberlands, sporting properties, and recreational lands who wish to protect valuable resources while retaining ownership of the property and continuing to use the area for economic gain or recreation.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement that a landowner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on his or her property. Each easement is tailored to fit the needs and desires of each individual landowner and uniquely blends the management and use of the land with stewardship of its natural resources.

Ducks Unlimited accepts easements in perpetuity through its affiliate Wetlands America Trust. Ducks Unlimited agrees to monitor the property on a yearly basis to ensure the protection of its natural resources for years to come. Such protection will ensure that large acreages of wetland, riparian and important upland habitats will be preserved for the benefits of waterfowl and other wildlife and the enjoyment of future generations.

Ducks Unlimited uses easements primarily to protect the existing tracts of forested wetlands. This is a "protect what's left" strategy to preserve remaining parts of the system until, where feasible, Ducks Unlimited can reconnect these fragments through reforestation programs to provide the benefits discussed above. Through conservation easements, Ducks Unlimited has protected 64,955 acres in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas valued at more than \$55 million.

There are other programs too, but I hope these highlighted programs serve to give you a better idea of DU's goals and accomplishments in the lower Mississippi Flyway. DU is in the business of wetlands habitat conservation and there is no better way to accomplish that goal than to partner with landowners, farmers and ranchers, state, local and federal government agencies, private and corporate partners.

You may rest assured that Ducks Unlimited cares about winter habitat for waterfowl in Louisiana. No other conservation organization has dedicated so many of its resources – people, time and money – toward wetlands conservation locally. Ducks Unlimited intends to continue its habitat focus and to use every available resource to implement the aforementioned habitat programs.

We hope you will support our efforts to ensure waterfowl populations for future generations – and we hope you will encourage others to participate too. We welcome questions and comments from any and all hunters that you believe may have become disenchanted with DU. It is highly likely that these folks are either uninformed or misinformed. We care very much about the perspective that people have about what DU is doing, but we can't address an individual's concerns unless we hear from that individual. We certainly appreciate hearing from you.

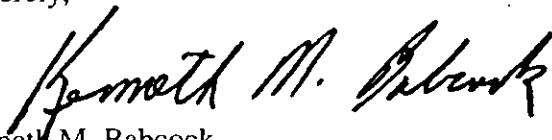
I have enclosed a fact sheet on Ducks Unlimited's conservation work in Louisiana. In addition, fact sheets with information and statistics on the number of acres restored and maintained in other states are available, by state, on our web site www.ducks.org.

Other sources of information include our monthly *Ducks Unlimited* magazine and quarterly *Puddler* magazine and *Leader* newsletter for volunteers and sponsors.

We do our best to communicate our mission and progress, but sometimes it is hard to reach everyone - even when the information is available from several sources.

Ducks Unlimited wishes you a lifetime of waterfowl hunting success in Louisiana – and nobody is working harder to make that happen. Please feel free to contact us anytime we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth M. Babcock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'B'.

Kenneth M. Babcock
Director of Operations

DV:cb

Enclosure



FACT SHEET

LOUISIANA

(Based on numbers available 02/28/01)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- In 2000/01, among the fifty states, Louisiana ranked:
 - 1st in total number of Greenwings: 22,044
 - 1st in increase in number of Greenwings: 14,785
 - 1st in percent increase in number of Greenwings: 203.678%
 - 1st in total number of contributors: 17,132
 - 1st in dollar increase in ladies event income: \$52,046
 - 1st in percent increase in number of contributors: 48.693%
 - 2nd in dollar increase in grassroots income: \$140,616
 - 2nd in total number of contributors: 52,316
 - 2nd in total increase in number of Sponsors: 311
 - 3rd in total number of Sponsors: 3,797
 - 3rd in total income all sources: \$7,575,906
 - 3rd in total number of Sponsor events: 41
 - 5th in total grassroots income: \$2,906,828
 - 8th in dollar-per-capita: \$0.665
 - 8th in total dollars ladies event income: \$52,046

MEMBERSHIP FY'01 GRAND TOTAL: 52,450

- Members: 52,243
 - General Members: 26,402
 - Greenwings: 21,929
 - Legacy Greenwing Members: 118
 - Sponsor Members: 3,794
- Major Sponsors: 207
 - Diamond Legacy Sponsor: 0
 - Platinum Legacy Sponsor: 0
 - Gold Legacy Sponsor: 0
 - Legacy Sponsor: 1
 - Benefactor Roll of Honor: 4
 - Heritage Sponsor: 4
 - Sponsor in Perpetuity: 17
 - Life Sponsor: 181
 - Grand Slam Heritage: 1
 - Grand Slam Sponsor in Perpetuity: 1
 - Grand Slam Life Sponsor: 10

FEATHER SOCIETY MEMBERS: 166

- Diamond: 0
- Platinum: 2
- Emerald: 0

Gold: 3
Silver: 161

U.S. CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- Total project acres in flyway: 2,674,526
- Total number of completed project deliveries in flyway: 14,486
- Amount spent to date on projects in flyway: \$102,633,983
- Number of completed project deliveries in state: 2,209
- Total number of conserved acres in this state: 173,836
- Amount spent to date on projects in state: \$13,079,363
- Primary waterfowl species that benefit from DU's efforts include: Northern Pintail; Gadwall; Green-Winged Teal; Wood Duck; Mallard; Ring-Necked Duck; Canvasback; Redhead; Blue-Winged Teal; Mottled Duck; American Wigeon; White-Fronted Goose and Lesser Snow Goose.

STATE FUND-RAISING EFFORTS

- Total grass roots dollars raised in FY 2000/01: \$2,906,828
- Number of committees in FY 2000/01: 93
- Number of fund-raising events in FY 2000/01: 166
- Total income from all sources in FY 2000/01: \$7,575,906

YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO DU FOR CANADIAN PROJECTS

- Total contributions granted through FY 00/01: \$7,374,937.90
- Location of projects: Alberta, Saskatchewan

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP SALES

- 105,979 Federal Duck Stamps were sold in state during the 1999/00 hunting season.

LOUISIANA STATE CHAIRMAN

P. J. DeMarie
209 Hwy 22 W. Suite A, Madisonville, LA 70447
Home: (985) 845-0888; Business: (985) 845-0845

(over)

LOUISIANA

FOR INFORMATION ON DUCKS UNLIMITED EVENTS CONTACT:

George I Horton, Ph.D., Senior Regional Director
1208 E Bayou Pkwy, Lafayette, LA 70508;
(337) 234-7050; ghorton@ducks.org

Charles M. Smith, Senior Regional Director
12944 Pleasant Ridge, Walker, LA 70785;
(225) 665-0828; csmith@ducks.org

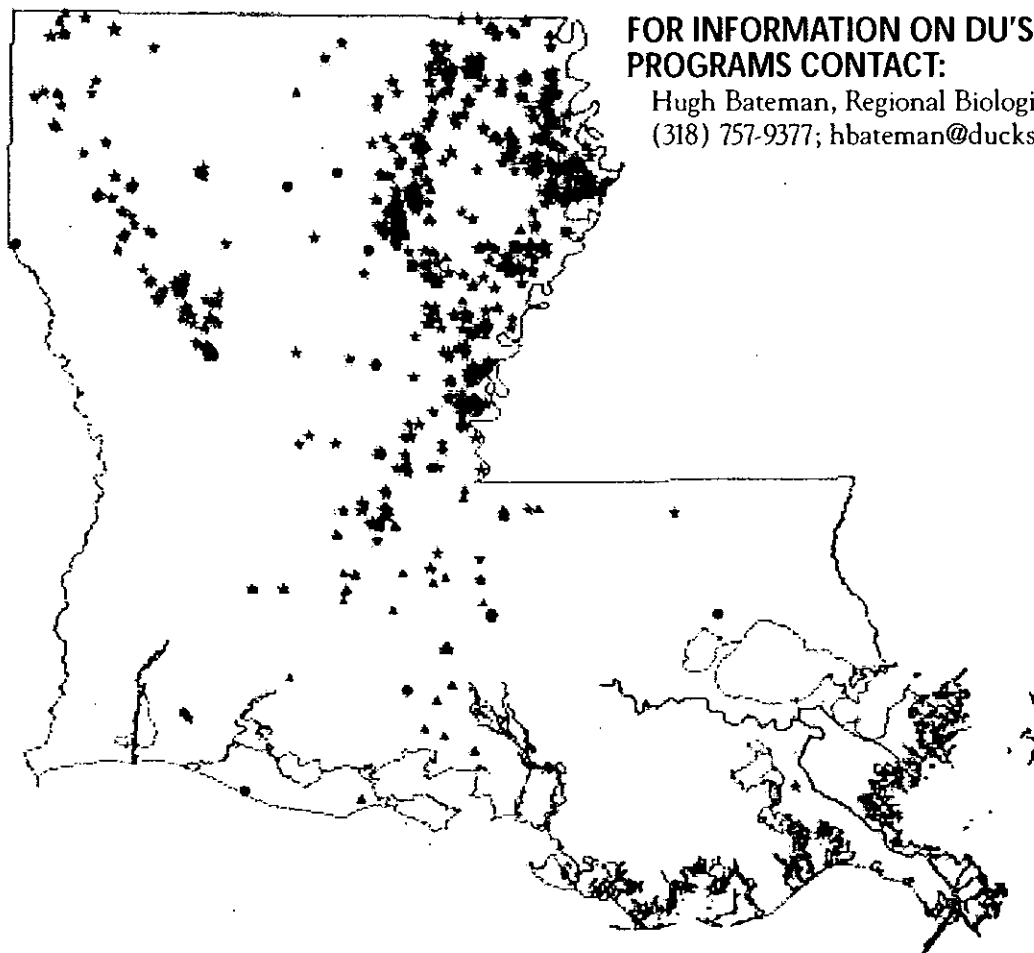
Earl D. Norwood, Jr., Southern Regional Team Leader
109 Frazier Rd., PO Box 578, Ruston, LA 71270;
(318) 255-6768; enorwood@ducks.org

FOR INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MAJOR DONOR CONTACT:

Jack McCarty, Director of Development
102 Oakridge St., Starkville, MS 39759;
(662) 615-5902; jmccarty@ducks.org

FOR INFORMATION ON DU'S CONSERVATION PROGRAMS CONTACT:

Hugh Bateman, Regional Biologist
(318) 757-9377; hbateman@ducks.org



KEY TO FEATURES

- ▲ DEMONSTRATION/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS-Projects for which DU provides on-site biological guidance or demonstrations to benefit waterfowl/wetlands management of an area.
- MARSH PROJECTS-Matching Aid to Restore State Habitat (MARSH) projects are those that use a portion of DU grass roots funds leveraged with matching funds from other organizations to enhance and restore habitat within each state.
- ★ CONSERVATION PROJECTS-DU Conservation projects including wetland enhancements, grassland restoration, private land easements, etc. that are not part of the MARSH program.

Note: DEMO/TECH Assistance and RESEARCH projects often cover large areas and are not completely depicted by a single point on a map.



NEWS RELEASE

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

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601-956-1936 • www.ducks.org

Contact: Diane Vasey
(601) 956-1936
(601) 206-5464
dvasey@ducks.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ducks Unlimited and rice farmers work through differences to support favorable Farm Bill

Jackson, MS, May 16, 2002 -- Despite early differences of opinion, Ducks Unlimited and rice-industry farmers in Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and southern Missouri stuck it out and worked together to rally support for the 2002 Farm Bill that has turned out to be a win-win bill for agricultural and conservation interests combined.

"The success of the final version of the Farm Bill shows how important it is for groups with common interests to work closely together," said Jerry Lee Bogard, Arkansas rice farmer and longtime supporter of Ducks Unlimited. "Ducks Unlimited and farmers in the rice industry can accomplish far more by combining our considerable efforts than either group could ever hope to accomplish by going solo.

"Although we encountered problems early during the House debates," Bogard says, "once DU and rice farmers met and discussed the proposed Farm Bill at length, each party walked away with a better understanding of our respective needs -- and based on that understanding we were able to pull together and move forward aggressively to support a Farm Bill that is now favorable to the rice industry.

"Ducks Unlimited's support of the rice industry, in the final Senate version of the Farm Bill, has not been made public," Bogard continues. "It was DU's letters of support to Congress that helped the rice industry score major points when Congress conferenced the bill and threw out an amendment that would have put 25 percent of the rice farmers out of business. I firmly believe that the rice industry would not have been able to accomplish what we were able to accomplish without the support of Ducks Unlimited and other conservation-minded friends."

President Bush signed the 2002 Farm Bill into law May 13 at a White House ceremony attended by Ducks Unlimited officials. This Farm Bill will help keep rice farmers in business and will provide funding to continue conservation programs that have proven effective since 1985. Provisions of the bill will increase funding to restore wetlands that have been altered for other land uses.

Ducks Unlimited has been a leading advocate for the reauthorization of two federal agriculture conservation programs important to waterfowl and wetlands: the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) -- both administered by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Both programs provide incentives for farmers to implement conservation practices on their land.

Land enrolled in WRP is placed under a long-term conservation easement, and land enrolled in CRP is idled for 10- to 15-year periods. In cooperation with NRCS, Ducks Unlimited helps farmers restore wetlands and other wildlife habitats on some of these enrolled properties.

Wetlands in the southern region of the United States benefit most through WRP. In the last Farm Bill, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Louisiana enrolled 406,000 acres or 38 percent of the WRP acreage in the United States. Texas also has benefited, having enrolled an additional 4 percent or 43,175 acres.

"Simply put, more WRP means more benefits for waterfowl," said Ken Babcock, director of operations for Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office in Jackson, Mississippi. "Current congressional caps on WRP acres have limited enrollment to 1,075,000 acres nationwide. This cap was reached late in 2001, effectively precluding any additional enrollments. There is currently more than 600,000 acres awaiting WRP enrollment. Needless to say, we are very pleased to see the cap raised to 2,275,000 acres, opening the door for another 1.2 million acres over the next six years.

"WRP is a great program for wildlife and some of today's farmers who are struggling to get by," Babcock continues. "Managing land for wildlife recreation provides a dependable alternative source of income to many family farmers -- income that might mean the difference between staying in business and selling the farm."

###

Note: The Mississippi Alluvial Valley, or the "Delta," which comprises portions Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois, has lost more than 80 percent of its original wetlands. These are nature's most productive ecosystems, providing critical habitat to 900 species of wildlife, including several that are threatened or endangered.

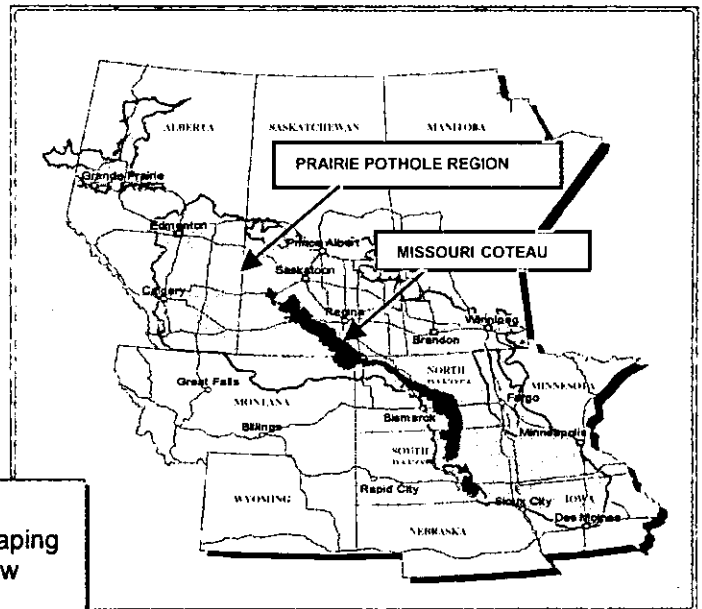
With more than one million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective wetlands and waterfowl conservation organization, raising more than \$1.5 billion since 1937 to conserve 10 million acres in Canada, United States and Mexico.



The Missouri Coteau

Heart of the Canadian Prairies

At the heart of the Prairie Pothole Region is the Missouri Coteau or "hills of the prairie." The Missouri Coteau is a 10- to 50-mile wide band covering 25,700 square miles, stretching from South Dakota into southern Saskatchewan.



WHAT IS THE PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION?

As glaciers from the last ice age receded, scouring and reshaping the prairie landscape, they left in their wake millions of shallow depressions that today are wetlands known as potholes. The Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) covers 300,000 square miles, stretching 1,500 miles from the Peace Lowlands of northwestern Alberta and northeastern BC southeast to the Tall Grass Prairie of Iowa. For thousands of years this complex of wetlands and grassland sustained breeding populations of waterfowl unmatched anywhere in North America, as well as a host of other wildlife and plant species.

A Rugged Oasis

The Coteau's knob-and-kettle topography is characterized by a high density of diverse and productive wetlands. Combined with an abundance of native grassland, this prairie landscape is unique and very valuable to waterfowl and wildlife.

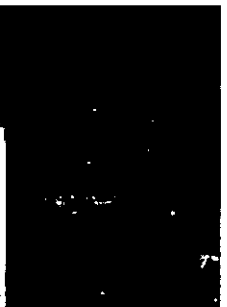
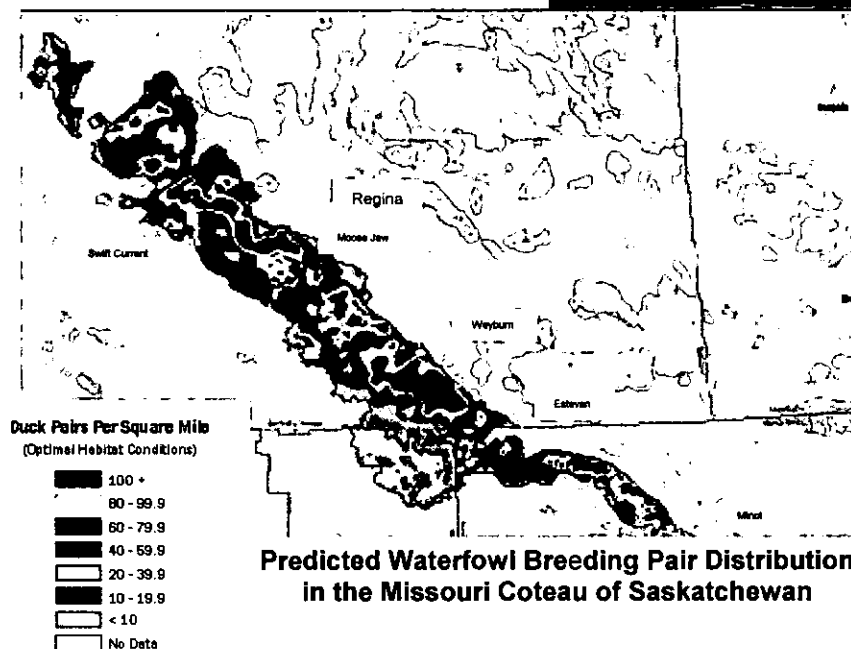


Photo supplied by SERM

Waterfowl & Wildlife

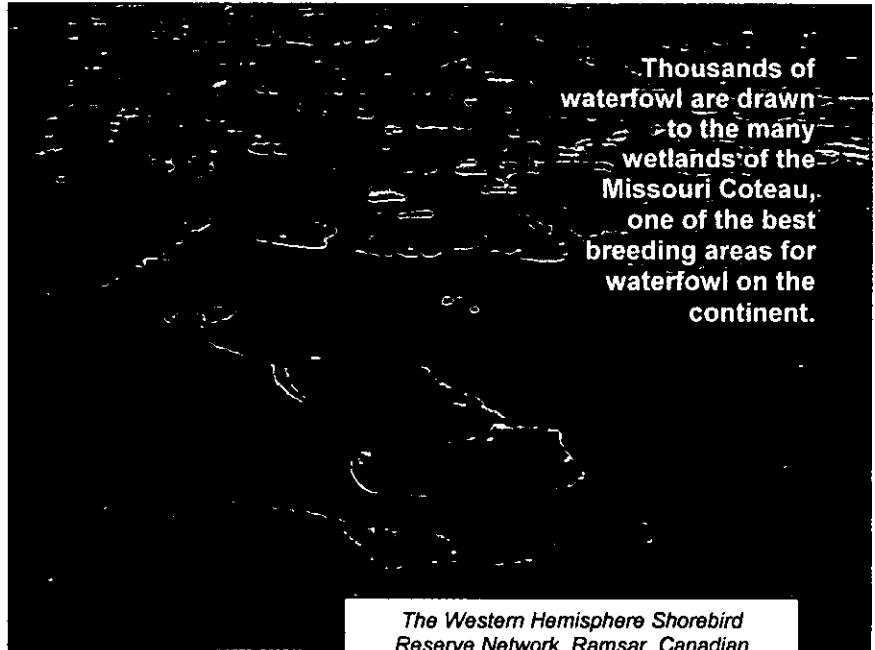
The Missouri Coteau supports a tremendous number of waterfowl and wildlife species.

Waterfowl Depend on the Coteau

The combination of intact wetlands and rolling grassland makes the Missouri Coteau prime duck breeding habitat, supporting concentrations of pintail, mallard, gadwall, blue-winged teal and northern shoveler.

The Coteau is a Wildlife Haven

With its diverse, shallow, nutrient-rich wetland complexes, the Missouri Coteau is ideal for shorebird breeding and migration also. The potholes, marshes and lakes form the critical breeding habitat for several Species at Risk, many grassland songbirds and colonial waterbirds.



Thousands of waterfowl are drawn to the many wetlands of the Missouri Coteau, one of the best breeding areas for waterfowl on the continent.

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, Ramsar, Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan and United States Shorebird Conservation Plan recognize the Missouri Coteau for its critical shorebird habitat.



Photo by Guy Fontaine



Photo by Guy Fontaine

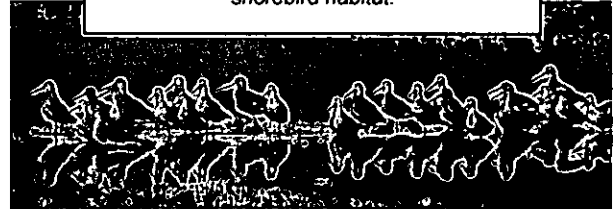
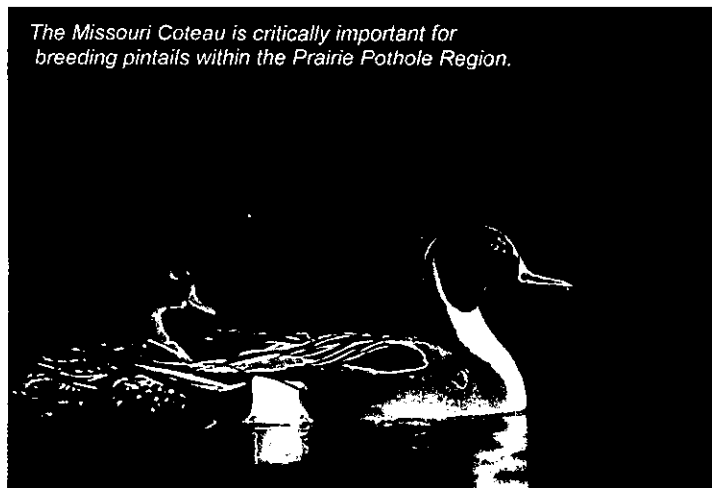


Photo by Brian Wolitski

PINTAILS – A Species in Peril



The Missouri Coteau is critically important for breeding pintails within the Prairie Pothole Region.

Pintails rely heavily on the habitat of the Prairie Pothole Region, but unfortunately that habitat is quickly disappearing. More than 70 percent of the wetlands in the PPR has been drained or severely degraded, and the destruction continues. In many places, upland habitats have been under greater siege than wetlands. Some species of waterfowl, like pintails, have been hit particularly hard. As the shallow wetlands and fragile grasslands of their preferred breeding habitat have been lost, pintail populations have declined 53% during the past 20 years.

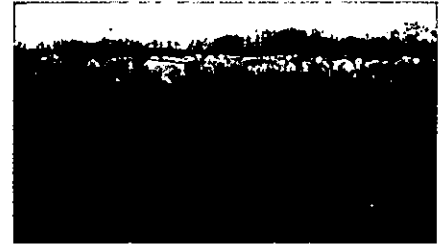
Pintails are well adapted to grassland habitats and are one of the few waterfowl species that will nest in

open sites with sparse vegetative cover. This trait often leads them to nest in cropland, where their nests are susceptible to destruction during spring agricultural operations. Remaining wetlands and grasslands must be conserved, lost habitats restored, and cropping practices must be changed if pintails are to survive.

Today's Challenges...

Formed by the retreating glaciers, the Missouri Coteau remained a productive ecoregion for thousands of years. All this changed with the advent of the plow. Intensive agricultural practices during the last century have so radically transformed the Canadian prairie that it is now considered one of the most endangered natural landscapes in Canada. The pristine native prairie and vast expanses of wetlands that historically characterized the region have been replaced by drained wetlands and cultivated uplands. Wetlands and remaining native grassland habitat in the Missouri Coteau continue to be at risk of further degradation.

It is likely that the demand for agricultural land and the intensity of use will only increase. The cattle industry is currently well established within the Missouri Coteau and is expected to expand. Increased cattle numbers could lead to overgrazing and a deterioration of both uplands and wetlands. Cropland areas also may expand at the expense of existing remnant grassland falling to the plow.



One of the most serious ecological threats is fragmentation of prairie grassland and wetland habitats through cultivation of the remaining remnant parcels. Too small to hay or graze, these remnants sit as idled grassland habitat. As idled areas, they provide some exceptionally high value habitat and require immediate protection. Many of these small remnant areas are within fields of annual cultivation that also surround highly productive pothole wetlands. These areas offer the greatest potential for conversion of cultivation to permanent cover with subsequent management for wildlife.

... Lead to Opportunities

Despite the impact that the livestock and grain industries have on the Coteau, opportunities exist for Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to work with these industries to advance new ideas that are compatible with waterfowl, wildlife habitat protection and agriculture.



Photo supplied by Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM)

Ducks Unlimited and the Agricultural Industry

DUC has been actively working toward the creation of government-led programs that financially reward producers who plant and retain vegetative cover, and conserve or restore native pastures, riparian and field margin buffers, and wetlands. The waterfowl rewards of such a program would be unprecedented in Canada.

We also are working with landowners to promote the converting of cropland to permanent cover and winter cereal crops. This would alleviate the danger of spring tillage to nesting pintails.

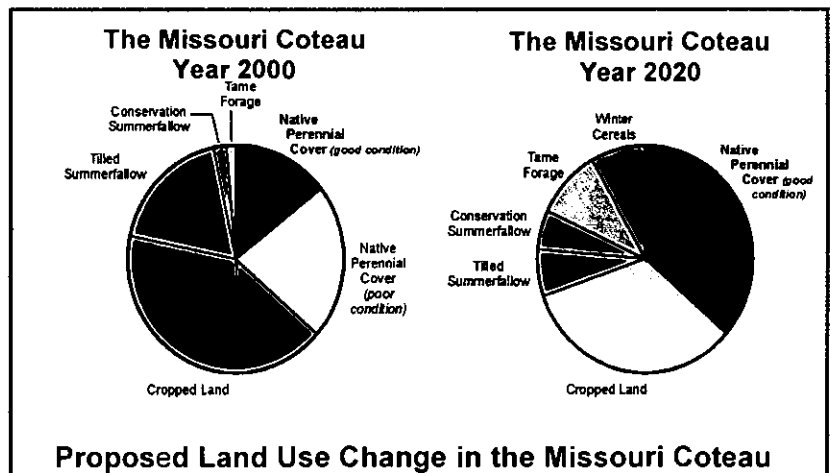


The Plan

The Coteau Legacy Conservation Initiative

Ducks Unlimited began conserving wetland habitats within the Missouri Coteau in 1940. Traditional strategies have made important gains but the future of the Coteau depends on using new approaches to preserve and develop habitat, while remaining sensitive to the needs of the agricultural industry.

The Coteau Legacy Conservation Initiative will meet the challenge of continued habitat loss, degradation and help restore lost values of the Missouri Coteau. Outlined below are the three principal goals to be accomplished during the next 20 years and a list of three-year (through FY2005) objectives:



1 Protect 2 million acres of existing prairie grassland and associated upland habitats and 0.5 million acres of wetlands from any further loss or degradation. Through FY2005:

- Work with governments to develop wetland and grassland protection policies;
- Implement a land purchase/easement program targeted at high priority habitats;
- Implement a rangeland stewardship program on 100,000 acres;
- Permanently protect 26,000 acres of critical habitat with conservation easements;
- Remove the tax burden on 56,000 idled acres through property tax credits.

2 Restore the ecological function of the existing prairie that has been affected by non-sustainable rangeland use. Through FY2005:

- Implement a forage conversion program on 42,000 acres as complementary grazing lands;
- Develop native plant materials for use in grazing and prairie restoration efforts;
- Work with the Saskatchewan government to minimize destructive land management practices on provincially-owned lands.

3 Compensate for historical and ongoing loss of prairie habitats within strategic geographical portions of the Coteau. Through FY2005:

- Work with the Saskatchewan government to restore 16,000 acres of cultivated public and private land to perennial cover;
- Convert 60,000 acres of cultivated land to forage production;
- Develop cooperative land management programs on First Nations lands.

Funding & Partnerships

Achieving the goals and objectives of the Coteau Legacy Conservation Initiative will require a significant investment of funding and overall resources. These ambitious goals will require a 20-year funding commitment in excess of \$100 million (CAN). Implementation of the FY2005 objectives calls for \$5 million (CAN) annually. Funds raised through Louisiana PRIDE will provide an all-important kickstart for this initiative.

Capturing new partnership and funding opportunities is essential. *Managing the Missouri Coteau for sustainability and biological diversity is a complex task that can be achieved only through an integrated habitat management plan with partners that share a common purpose. It will require the active involvement of thousands of private land stewards, conservation and government agencies.*

MARSH PROGRAM - Began in 1985

Administered by the LA Conservation Committee & Hugh Bateman and Robbie Howard of the LA Conservation Staff.

Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Currently has completed 29 projects, and enhanced or restored over 45,000 wetland acres.

LOUISIANA WATERFOWL PROJECT/NORTH Began in 1992

Project Biologist: Nick Smith

Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Private Land Owners

Total Protected Acres to Date = 42,691
Number of Landowner Agreements = 308

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

Began in 1996

Regional Biologist: Josh McDaniel
Regional Engineer: Quin Durbin, P.E.
Engineering Techs: Rick Parnell & Terry Gwin

Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
Private Landowners

Total Restored Acres to Date = 42,956
Number of Landowners = 246

LOUISIANA WATERFOWL PROJECT/SOUTH Began in 1999

Project Biologist: Chad Courville

Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Private Landowners

Total Protected Acres to Date = 9,470
Number of Landowner Agreements = 37

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS Began in 1999

Administered by LA Conservation Staff

Total Protected Acres to Date = 15,091
Total Number of Easements = 12
Number of Landowners = 5

Other conservation easement opportunities throughout the state are being brought to DU's attention, many of which support wetlands critical to continental waterfowl populations.

Information requests concerning the Conservation Easement Program should be forwarded to any LA staff member, or to: **Jimmy Emfinger**,
Manager of Land Protection
DU Southern Regional Office
193 Business Park Drive, Suite E
Ridgeland, MS 39157
Phone (801) 206-5434
Email: jemfinger@ducks.org

Ducks Unlimited's wetland conservation programs continue to grow and gain popularity. We are finding, and responding, to excellent opportunities for wetland conservation throughout Louisiana, on both private and public lands. Our habitat conservation priorities continue to be the protection, restoration, and enhancement of forested wetlands, natural moist soil vegetation, coastal wetlands, and flooded agricultural crops with an emphasis on rice.

Our five conservation programs are:

- MARSH (Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat)
- Louisiana Waterfowl Project/North
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
- Louisiana Waterfowl Project/South
- Conservation Easements

Since 1985, more than 485,000 acres have been affected by these five programs. Of these, over 335,000 are technical assistance acres. Our staff have also been instrumental in public awareness and education in the form of Moist Soil Workshops for landowners, Greenwing Youth Hunts, and much more.

Please feel free to contact any one of our dedicated staff members for more information about Ducks Unlimited and its programs. We thank you for your continued support.



For Information on
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email: enorwood@ducks.org

George L. Horton, Ph.D.
Senior Regional Director
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email: ghorton@ducks.org

Charles "Chuck" M. Smith
Senior Regional Director
(225) 665-0828
email: csmith@ducks.org

MEMBERSHIP

Ducks Unlimited is a grassroots,
volunteer-based wetlands conservation
organization. Its members are hunters
and outdoor enthusiasts who live
throughout the United States,
Canada, and Mexico.

.....

Among the 50 states in the year 2001,
Louisiana ranked 5th in total grassroots
income -- raising over \$2.7 million
from 35,932 members.



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email: ccourville@ducks.org



DUCKS

UNLIMITED, INC.

Louisiana Conservation & Fund Raising Programs

MISSION STATEMENT

Ducks Unlimited conserves,
restores, and manages wetlands
and associated habitats for North
America's waterfowl.
These habitats also benefit other
wildlife and people.



MALLARDS ©GARY R. ZAHM

DUCKS UNLIMITED

The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to fulfill the annual life cycle needs of North American waterfowl by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and managing important wetlands and associated uplands. Since its founding in 1937, DU has raised more than \$1.5 billion, which has contributed to the conservation of almost 10 million acres of prime wildlife habitat in all 50 states, each of the Canadian provinces, and in key areas of Mexico. In the U.S. alone, DU has helped to conserve more than 2 million acres of waterfowl habitat. Some 900 species of wildlife live and flourish on DU projects, including many threatened or endangered species.



www.ducks.org

Ducks Unlimited

CONSERVATION

2001



Global Leader in Wetlands & Wildlife Conservation

A Critical Mission

For more than six decades Ducks Unlimited has maintained a steady focus on its mission. By staying true to that mission, DU has become the largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization in the world. But just as DU has grown and flourished through the years, so have the challenges facing North America's wildlife habitat. Many areas of the continent have lost more than half of their wetlands, and the loss and degradation of these habitats continue at an alarming rate. With a constantly growing human population and increasing demands being placed on the land, the solutions to these habitat losses are becoming more timely and complex. Considering the challenges we will face in the future, it is increasingly important that DU remain focused on its mission and true to its nature of restoring and protecting North America's wetland habitat.



Pintails

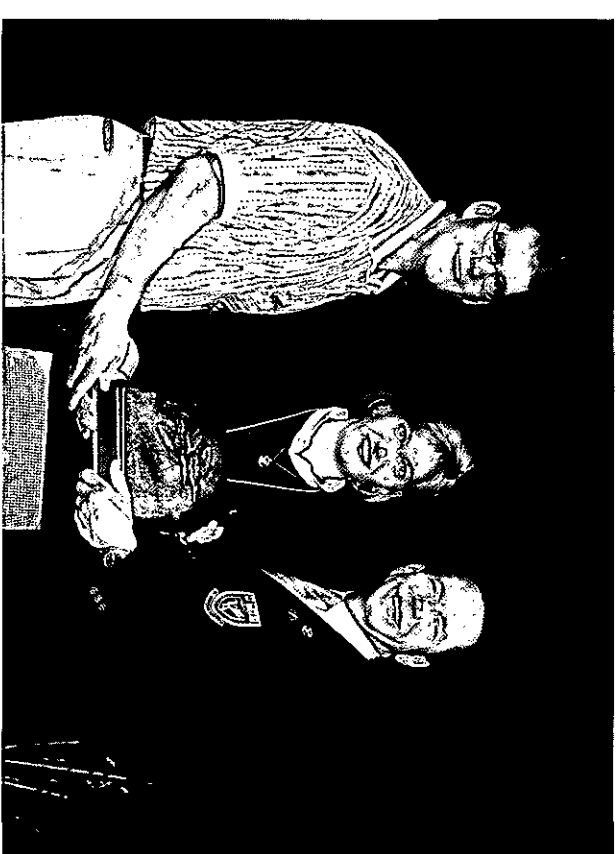
We Thank Our Sponsors

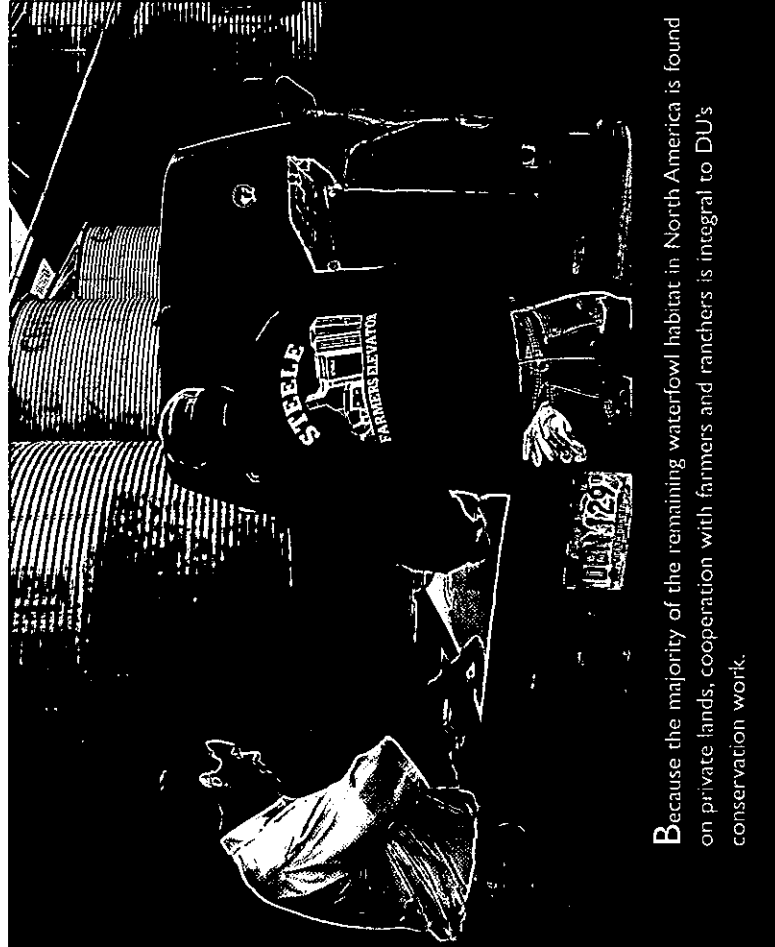
Of Ducks Unlimited's many supporters, sponsors are among the largest contributors to the organization's conservation efforts. Sponsors make up less than 10 percent of DU's members, yet they contribute more than 40 percent of its membership dollars. For the first time in 40 years, DU has raised its annual Bronze Sponsor donation fee from \$200 to \$250. The reason for this change is the steadily increasing cost of conserving a single acre of wildlife habitat, which is precisely what a Bronze Sponsor donation does.

Those who wish to upgrade their commitment to DU can join the new Key Sponsor program, in which participants sign on to support DU at the sponsor level for five years. In addition to receiving all the benefits entitled to annual sponsors, Key Sponsors receive a collectible lapel pin during each year of their sponsorship, window decals, and special mention in DU's annual report. For more information, contact Membership Services at 800-45-DUCKS, or your local DU representative.

DU supporters also recognize that our mission is far from being complete. The same threats that put wildfowl at risk during the Great Depression are still very much a factor. Wetlands continue to be lost at a rate that is much too high. And a growing global population, urban sprawl, and other elements will combine to stress the wildlife resources we all treasure. Only by working together, by partnering, by working efficiently, and making the most of our combined resources can we continue to add chapters to the conservation success story that is Ducks Unlimited. ■

(Left to right) DU Life Sponsors Eric and Jennifer Rose accept a plaque from DU President Dr. L.J. Mayeux, on behalf of Eric's parents, DU Heritage Sponsors Anthony and Kathleen Rose.





Because the majority of the remaining waterfowl habitat in North America is found on private lands, cooperation with farmers and ranchers is integral to DU's conservation work.

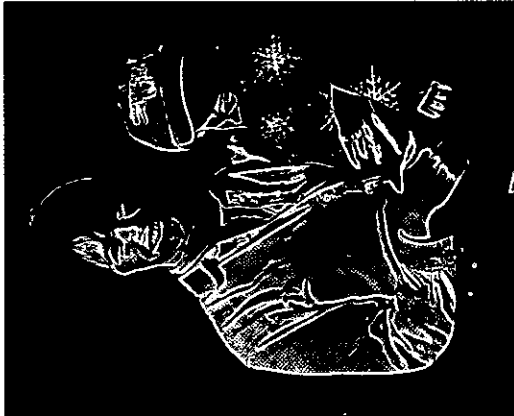
Expanding the Commitment

Support for Ducks Unlimited's conservation programs continues to grow

Perhaps at no other time in the 64-year history of Ducks Unlimited has the organization enjoyed the breadth of support it has today. For decades, DU's waterfowl and wetland habitat conservation programs were funded almost solely through the efforts of knowing and caring individuals who worked tirelessly on behalf of the wild ducks and geese that they treasured. Leaders in the conservation arena, DU volunteers, then as now, were without peer.

Individuals such as the late Joseph P. Knapp, recognized as DU's founding father, had the foresight to recognize that wetland habitat loss and degradation were negatively impacting waterfowl on the Canadian breeding grounds. And he stepped up to address the problem by recruiting others and convincing them that unless something was done, the future was bleak for ducks and geese. Knapp helped galvanize a corps of conservationists whose early ripples today resound as waves.

DU's legion of volunteers has grown to more than 50,000 strong, reaching from one end of



D.A. (DON) YOUNG,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC.

Raising the Bar

As the loss of North America's wetlands continues at an alarming rate, the need to conserve these highly productive wildlife habitats has never been greater

Implementing innovative ways to sustain wetlands and waterfowl has been integral to Ducks Unlimited's success for more than 60 years. Finding solutions to problems facing these resources remains at the heart of our quest to deliver the most efficient habitat conservation programs possible.

At one time, our focus was on relatively small, site-specific project areas. Over the years, DU has expanded the scope of these efforts to deliver integrated conservation programs that conserve critical wetland and waterfowl habitats from the breeding grounds to the wintering grounds and everywhere in between. There is little question that these projects, completed in every state, Canadian province, and many regions of Mexico, have paid dividends to wild ducks and geese.

Today, however, we are upping the ante. Our projects now may encompass hundreds of thousands of acres. These are called landscape initiatives, and their components are deter-



mined by strong science and the application of the most advanced technology available.

Our work is continuing in regions key to waterfowl populations. But DU has gone the extra step, and extended its expertise far beyond what would have ever been deemed possible even 30 years ago. Our initiatives include those in the Western Boreal Forest, Central Valley, Gulf Coast, Prairie Pothole Region, and the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, to name a few. Details on these initiatives are available on ensuing pages of this issue.

You will learn that these initiatives will require differing approaches in order to ensure their success. But no matter the geography involved, there is a common thread. These initiatives all serve as examples of DU customizing its habitat conservation efforts to provide the ultimate benefit for wetlands, waterfowl, and people.

In late July, DU will host the Eighth International Waterfowl Symposium. Experts from across North America will assemble to address the myriad issues facing our continent's waterfowl, wetlands, and their management. We will listen. We will participate. And together with some of the finest minds in the wildlife conservation community, we will continue to fine-tune and upgrade our habitat conservation programs on behalf of these valuable natural resources. ■

“

Our projects now may encompass hundreds of thousands of acres.

These are called landscape

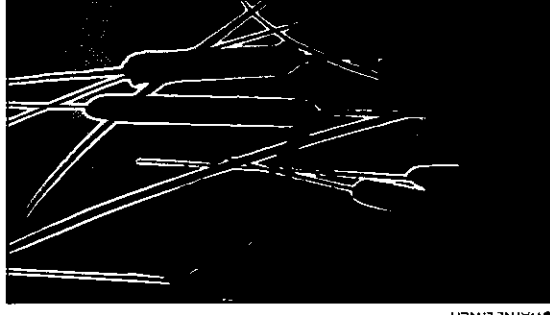
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are determined by strong science and

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technology available.

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As we begin a new century, DU's updated Conservation Plan charts a clear course for the organization's conservation programs

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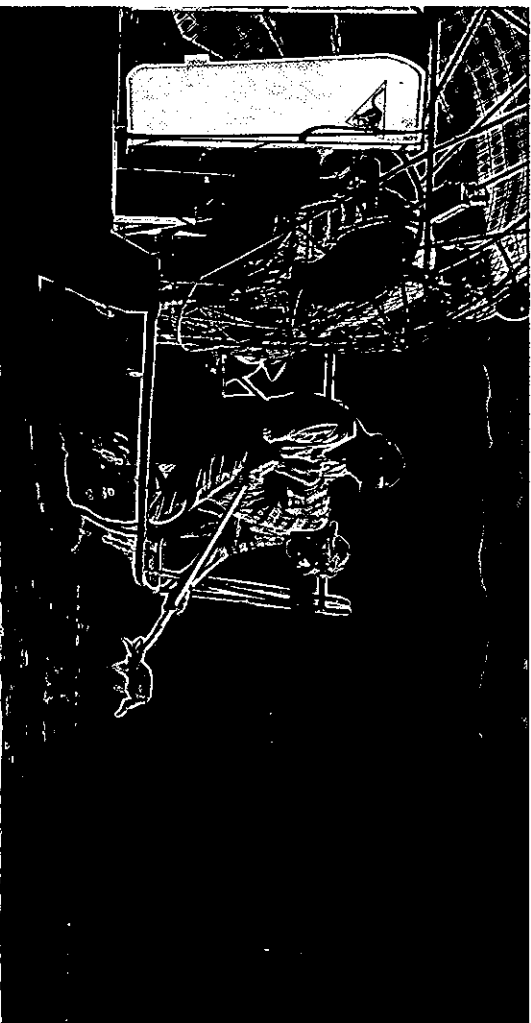
Support for Ducks Unlimited's conservation programs continues to grow

On the Cover:
Blue-winged Teal by Bill Marchel



Avian cholera outbreaks often occur on spring staging areas frequented by large numbers of lesser snow geese.

©RICHARD DAY/DAYBREAK IMAGERY



©BRUCE BATT, 20

Biologists retrieve dead ducks that succumbed to botulism on Utah's Great Salt Lake marshes. In areas prone to this disease, DU restores wetlands with water level management capabilities that can be used to minimize outbreaks.

Conservation Strategies

ilities that can be used to minimize disease outbreaks or stop them from growing too widespread. DU is also supporting research programs in Prairie Canada to identify what environmental conditions trigger botulism outbreaks, and to develop management strategies to control them. Where avian cholera is a concern, DU is working with sev-

eral partners to restore additional wetlands to help disperse waterfowl over a larger area. Although waterfowl diseases, like human illnesses, will never be completely eradicated, DU and its partners are optimistic that proactive management can reduce disease losses to levels that will not significantly impact continental waterfowl populations. ■

■ Determine the most effective habitat and outbreak management strategies in areas where botulism threatens large numbers of waterfowl

■ Encourage other partners to support botulism prevention and management programs

■ Incorporate water level management capabilities on wetland projects that enable managers to minimize the occurrence and extent of botulism and cholera outbreaks

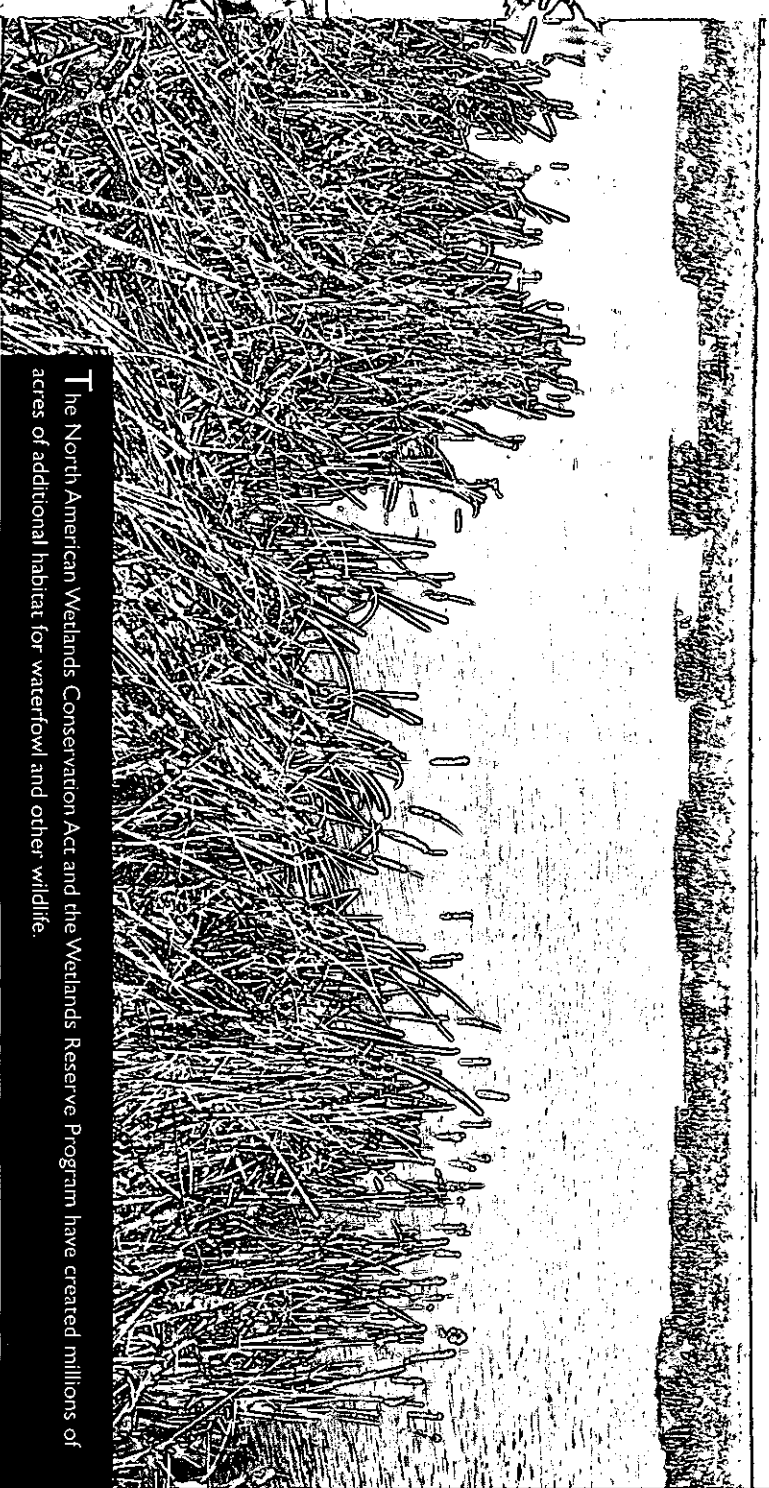
■ Complete botulism management research currently underway in Prairie Canada and on the Great Salt Lake marshes

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High-Priority

Ducks Unlimited's Conservation Plan gives priority rankings to regions based upon their significance to continental waterfowl populations. By focusing its conservation efforts in these high-priority habitat areas, DU ensures that its resources are allocated in the places where they are needed most.



The North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Wetlands Reserve Program have created millions of acres of additional habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

©AUBREY LANG

Public Policy

Government conservation programs provide critical support for DU's conservation mission

With the possible exception of climate, nothing can have a greater impact on waterfowl habitat in North America than government policy, especially agricultural programs. In 1989, Ducks Unlimited established its Governmental Affairs Office in Washington to work directly with Congress, the administration, federal agencies, and other organizations to support federal programs that conserve wetlands and waterfowl habitat. In Canada, DU is also aggressively pursuing public policy initiatives through its office in Ottawa, the country's capital.

An excellent example is the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), which funds wetland conservation projects in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Each federal dollar allocated to the program has been matched by almost \$3 from other partners, distinguishing NAWCA as one of the most cost-effective conservation programs in history. Since its enactment a little more than a decade ago, NAWCA and some 1,500 public and private sector cooperators have generated more than \$1 billion, which has funded hundreds of habitat conser-



New Jersey Congressman Jim Saxton (center) was presented with an award by DU staff for his leadership on behalf of migratory bird conservation.



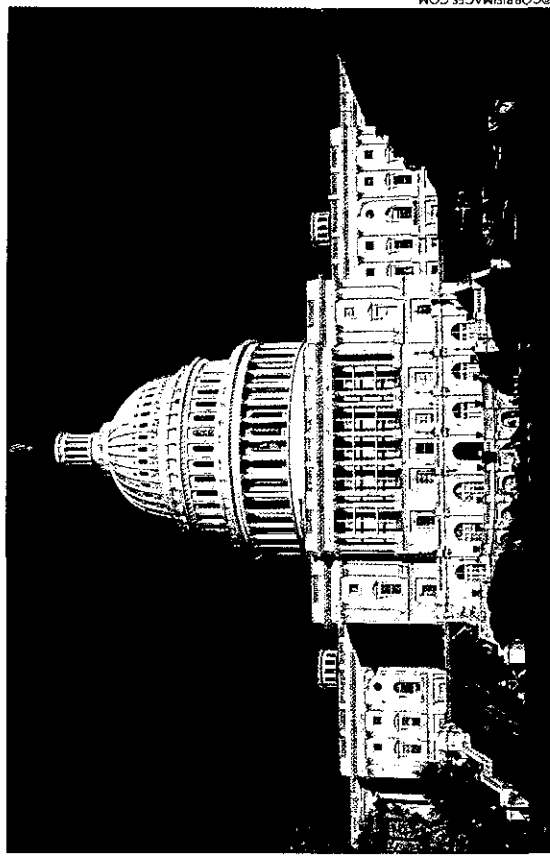
GARTHUR MORRIS/IRIDS AS ART

vation projects across the continent. With strong support from DU, NAWCA received an unprecedented \$40 million appropriation for fiscal year 2001, an astounding 166 percent increase above the previous year's funding level of \$15 million.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), which pay farmers to restore wetlands and surrounding uplands on marginal cropland, have provided several million acres of additional habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Unfortunately, without immediate action by Congress, these programs may not receive the necessary funding to survive. However, timely legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to expand both WRP and CRP in the 2002 Farm Bill. DU staff are also working with legislators to develop a new conservation initiative called the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), designed to conserve existing stands of native prairie.

In addition, DU continues to support the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), especially Title III of the bill, which would direct as much as \$350 million each year to states for wildlife conservation. Moreover, interest money accrued under Title III would be devoted to the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF), potentially bolstering that program's ability to deliver on-the-ground wetlands conservation projects.

None of these public policy initiatives would be possible without the continued support of thousands of DU members across the country. To ensure that NAWCA, WRP, and CRP receive adequate funding, DU members are encouraged to contact their members of Congress to show their support for these programs. To find draft letters that you can send to your elected officials, visit the DU Web site at www.ducks.org and click on "Take Action." For additional information, contact the DU Governmental Affairs Office by e-mail at dwinn@ducks.org. ■



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Habitats

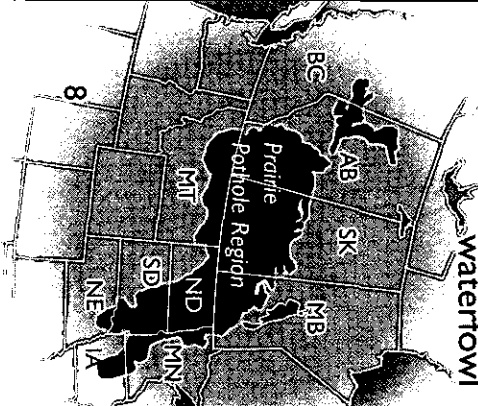


HIGH-PRIORITY HABITATS



Prairie Pothole Region

Large blocks of upland cover surrounding productive wetland complexes are critical to breeding waterfowl

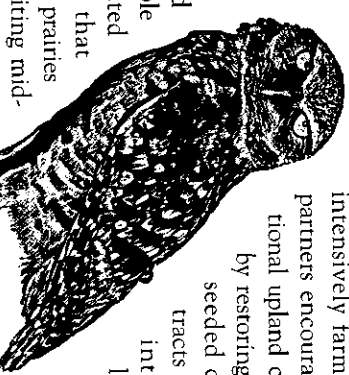


The Prairie Pothole Region of the U.S. and Canada is North America's single most important waterfowl breeding area, supporting more than 50 percent of all breeding ducks during wet years.

Unfortunately, the expansion of agriculture has taken a heavy toll on the ecology and wildlife of the prairies. The region has lost more than half of its original wetlands and nearly three-quarters of its native grasslands. With little upland habitat remaining in many areas, ducks and other birds are forced to nest in remnant fragments of grassland where they are highly vulnerable to predators. Research conducted by DU's IWWR has revealed that poor reproductive success on the prairies is the single greatest factor limiting mid-

continent duck populations. As the loss of upland cover and wetlands continues across the pothole country, further declines in waterfowl and other prairie wildlife populations are inevitable.

In a race against the clock, DU is working with a broad coalition of government agencies, organizations, corporations, foundations, and individuals to conserve the habitats that sustain prairie waterfowl populations. On intensively farmed landscapes, DU and its partners encourage farmers to provide additional upland cover for breeding waterfowl by restoring grasses and cultivating fall-seeded cereal crops. Where large tracts of native grasslands remain intact, DU works with landowners to restore wetlands and protect existing



Burrowing Owl

©RICHARD DAY/DAYBREAK IMAGERY

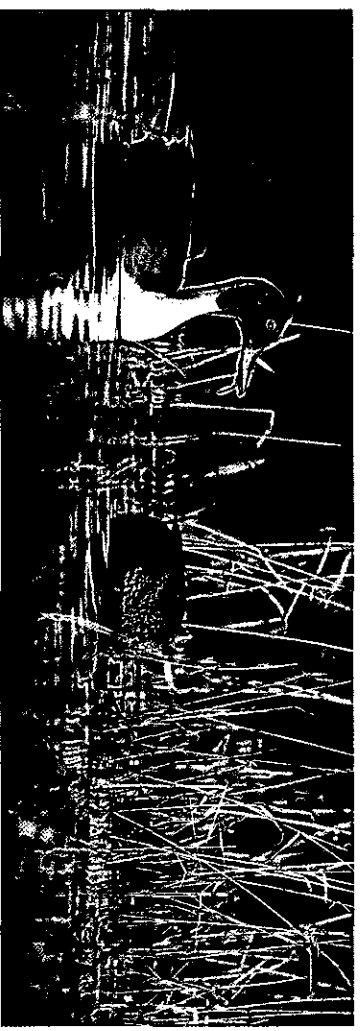


Pintails, as well as other waterfowl, use a wide variety of wetlands and associated uplands throughout the year. DU is working to bring back pintail populations by restoring these habitats throughout the birds' vast continental range.

Conservation Strategies

ing systems, and protect existing habitat via grassland and conservation easements. On major pintail wintering areas in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Gulf Coastal Prairie, and Central Valley of California, DU and its partners restore wetlands and seasonally flood harvested croplands, especially rice fields, to provide habitat for the birds and other wintering waterfowl.

With support from the Tuscany Research Institute, DU is also conducting research to learn more about pintail biology and what factors are limiting their populations. For example, in an effort to better understand the migration habits and breeding distribution of the birds, hen pintails wintering in the Central Valley were captured and fitted with satellite transmitters. This enabled waterfowl researchers to track their movements throughout the spring and summer. The results of this study will help DU identify and conserve critical pintail habitats and determine the vulnerability of pintails to catastrophic botulism outbreaks in different areas. ■



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- Expand the commitment to research and conservation programs that benefit pintails
- Aggressively implement and evaluate new habitat management techniques under the discipline of adaptive resource management
- Identify and promote public policies that are likely to benefit pintails throughout their range



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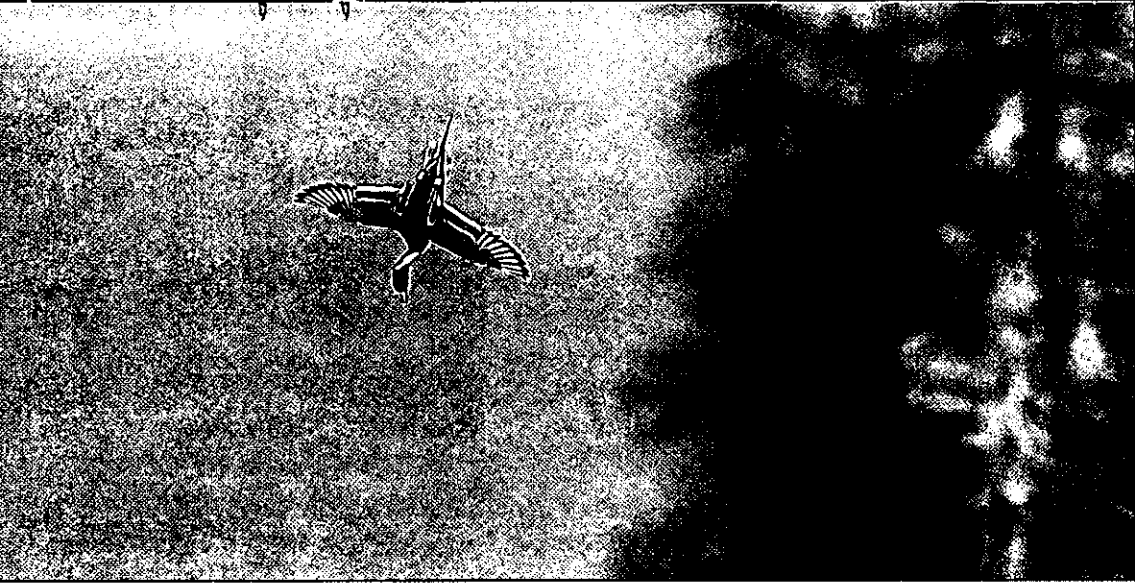
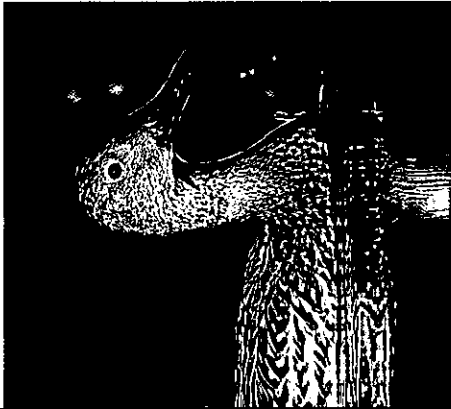
Pintails

Prairie drought and loss of critical habitats have kept these highly admired birds from bouncing back

Another popular duck species that remains well below its historic population levels is the pintail. In 2000, the pintail breeding population was estimated to be only 2.9 million birds—a level 48 percent below the population management goal and 33 percent below the long-term average. At present, there is no general consensus among waterfowl biologists about what factor, or combination of factors, has caused the pintail's decline.

While pintail numbers recently have soared on the U.S. prairies, the bulk of the breeding population historically settled on the prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan, where drought, extensive wetland drainage, and intensive agriculture have limited waterfowl breeding habitat in recent years. In addition, hundreds of thousands of pintails have been lost to botulism outbreaks on summer molting areas on the prairies and on wetlands adjacent to Utah's Great Salt Lake. Although most of the birds afflicted by this disease are typically

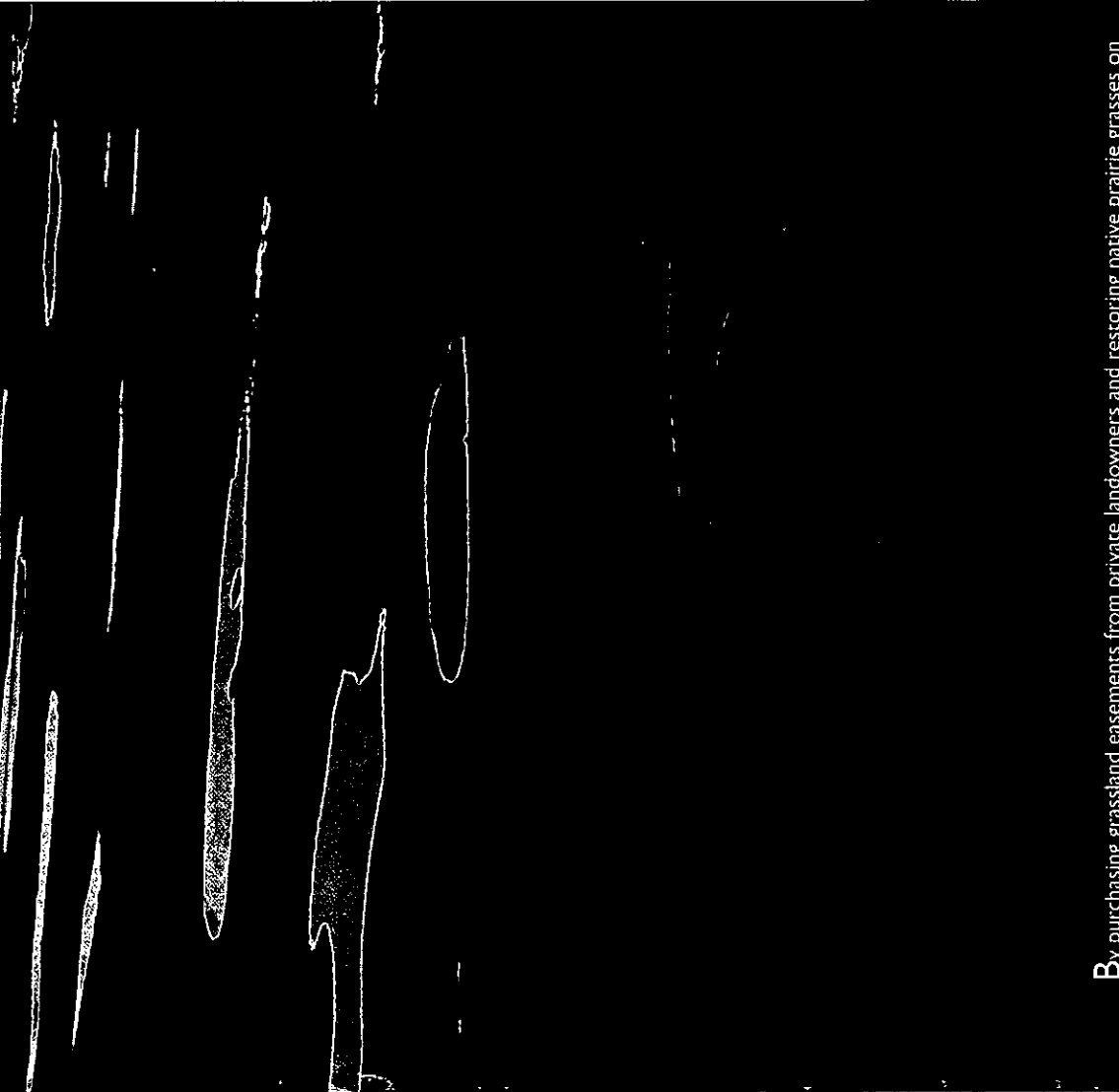
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males, the cumulative impact of these losses on continental pintail populations may be significant. Degradation of wintering habitats may also be a factor in the pintail decline. Decreased rice production on the west coast of Mexico and in Louisiana and Texas has greatly reduced the abundance of wintering habitat for pintails in these areas. Competition with burgeoning populations of light geese for limited food resources in remaining rice fields may further exacerbate this problem.

To help restore pintail populations to a level consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan goal, DU and its partners are actively working to conserve critical wetland and upland habitats used by the birds, as well as by other waterfowl. On the prairies, DU encourages farmers to increase the abundance of upland nesting cover by cultivating fall-seeded cereal crops and restoring large blocks of native grasses on former croplands. Where large tracts of grassland remain intact, DU works with farmers and ranchers to restore small wetlands, establish planned graz-



By purchasing grassland easements from private landowners and restoring native prairie grasses on former croplands, DU and its partners are working to preserve and increase the abundance of upland cover across vast landscapes, benefiting breeding ducks and a wide variety of other prairie wildlife.

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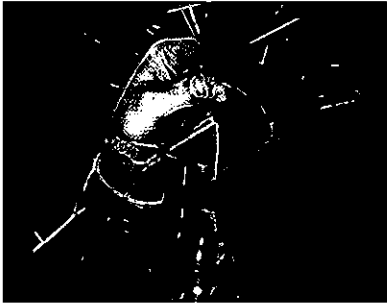


Mallard Hen and Brood

habitat via grassland, wetland, and conservation easements.

DU is also protecting critical prairie habitats by directly acquiring properties of great importance to waterfowl and other wildlife. For example, DU recently purchased the 8,500-acre Goebel Ranch in the heart of the wetland-rich Missouri Coteau of South Dakota. This massive tract of native prairie is the flagship project for DU's Grasslands for

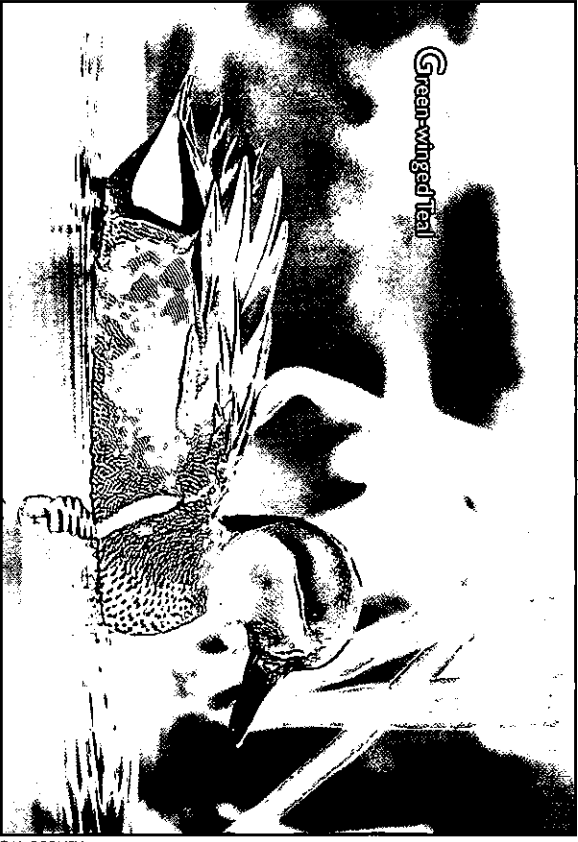
Tomorrow Initiative, which is working to conserve 2 million acres of the most productive waterfowl habitat in the Great Plains states. In 2001, DU will evaluate duck nesting success and grassland condition on the Goebel Ranch in preparation for new grazing systems that will further benefit waterfowl and other prairie wildlife. These efforts recently have received critical support from the Bush Foundation and The Kresge Foundation. ■



©DU CANADA

Five-Year Conservation Goals

- Achieve waterfowl population goals for the region established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Stop the loss of wetlands, with a priority on protecting and restoring wetlands on landscapes with greater than 40 percent upland cover suitable for nesting waterfowl
- Prevent further losses of native or naturalized cover, particularly in areas with high wetland densities and a high proportion of cover suitable for nesting waterfowl
- Increase the proportion of perennial cover in areas with more than the median density of wetlands and between 30 percent and 70 percent perennial cover
- Increase annual cover for nesting waterfowl (e.g. winter cereals) on landscapes with high wetland densities and where opportunities for establishing perennial cover are limited



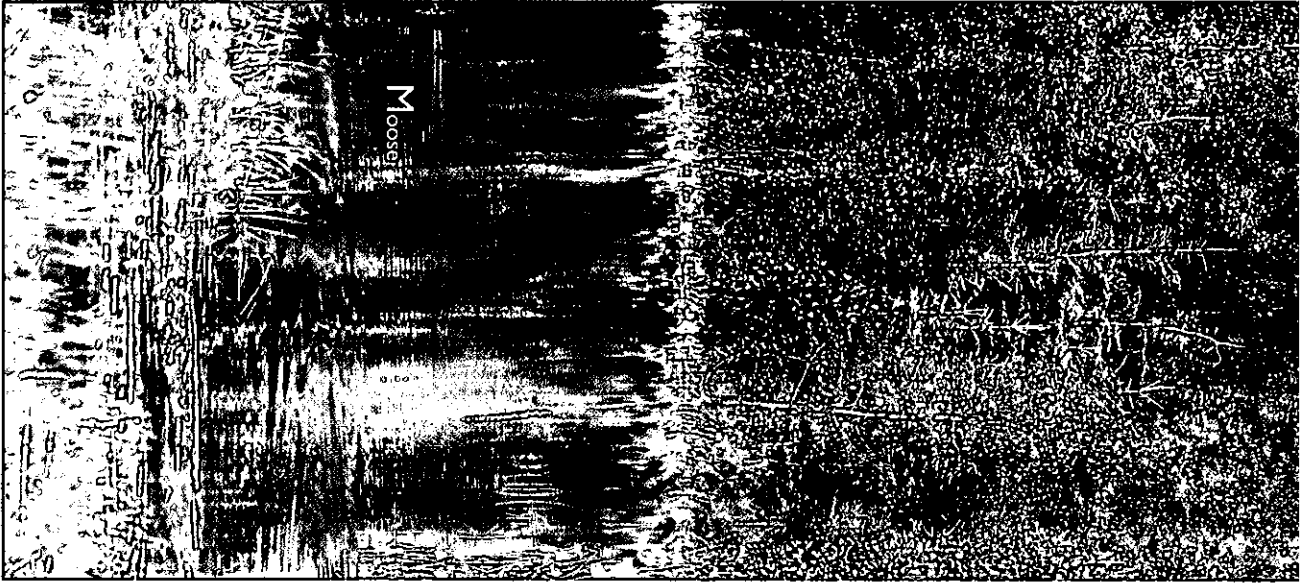
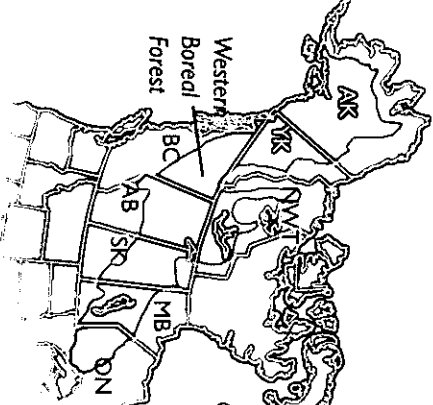
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Western Boreal Forest

Dramatic land-use changes in this remote region could have serious consequences for breeding waterfowl and other wildlife

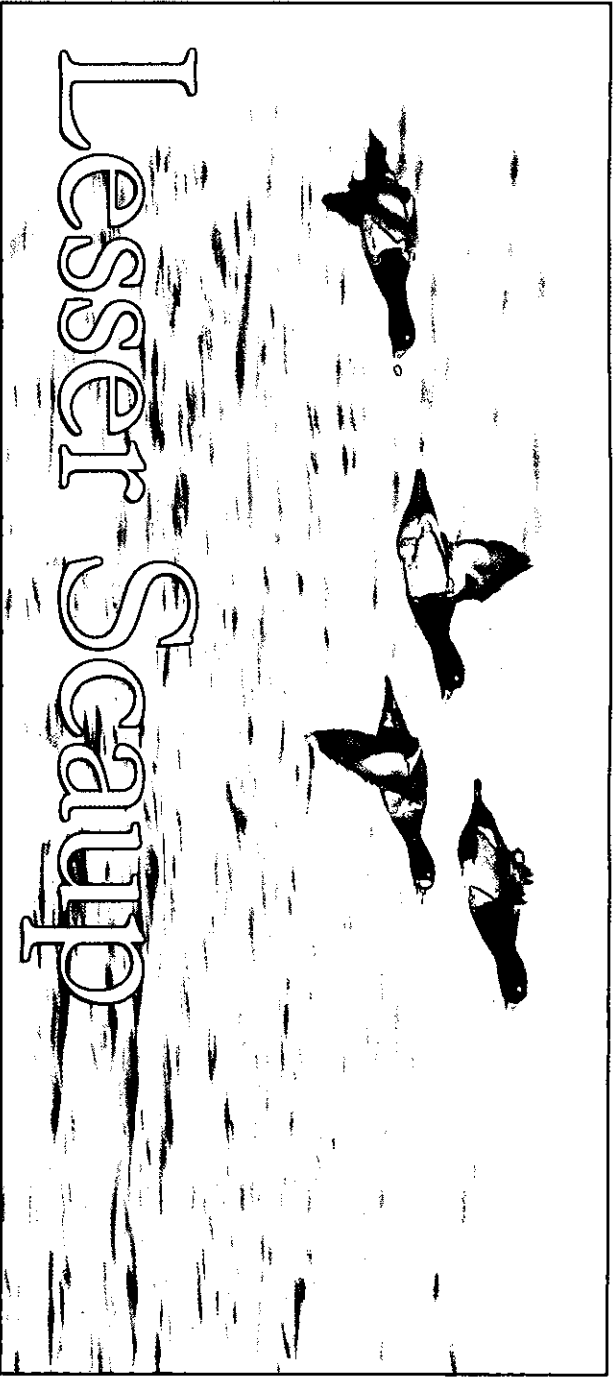
Just to the north of the Prairie Pothole Region is North America's second most important waterfowl breeding area, the western boreal forest of northern Canada and Alaska. This massive expanse of softwood forest, spanning 1.8 million square miles, supports an average of 13 million breeding ducks—up to 40 percent of those inventoried in the traditionally surveyed area. Boreal wetlands are especially important to breeding waterfowl during periods of severe drought on the prairies and parklands. Ducks and geese produced in the region during dry years help to support waterfowl populations at levels that can sustain hunting. These habitats also serve as a haven for millions of drought-displaced waterfowl from the prairies, enabling the birds to survive to breed again in future years when habitat conditions on the prairies are more favorable.

Until recently, the western boreal forest remained a largely pristine wilderness. Rising demand for natural resources, however, has spurred a dramatic increase in forestry, oil and gas production, mining, hydroelectric development, and agricultural activity in the region, potentially threatening its wetlands and waterfowl populations. In response, Ducks Unlimited has joined the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pew Charitable Trusts, and many



other partners in an ambitious new initiative to study and preserve wetland and wildlife habitats in the region.

A top priority of the Western Boreal Forest Initiative is to map wetlands across this vast region. Utilizing geographic information systems, which project layers of landscape data in a user-friendly map format, DU is creating a comprehensive waterfowl habitat inventory of the region. DU biologists and government mapping specialists also are conducting extensive air and ground surveys to verify satellite land-cover images, classify wetland habitats, and monitor waterfowl populations throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Additional research will study the importance of these habitats to waterfowl and other wildlife, and the potential impact resource development will have on the ecology of



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New research being conducted by DU and its partners may provide answers to the mysterious decline of this popular duck

The persistent, long-term decline of continental scaup populations is among the most perplexing issues in North American waterfowl conservation. In 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service surveyed only 4 million breeding scaup across their primary breeding grounds, a level 25 percent below the long-term average. Beginning in 1997, Ducks Unlimited's conservation staff and several partners have undertaken an extensive analysis of possible explanations for the decline of scaup populations.

These efforts have revealed that the decline appears to have occurred largely among lesser scaup, while greater scaup numbers have remained relatively stable. The number of young lesser scaup in the harvest also has steadily declined, especially in the Mississippi Flyway, and the proportion of males in the harvest has increased. In addition, during breeding population surveys, biologists have observed fewer pairs and more flocks of the birds. These trends all suggest that fewer lesser scaup appear to be breeding and that their reproductive success has declined.

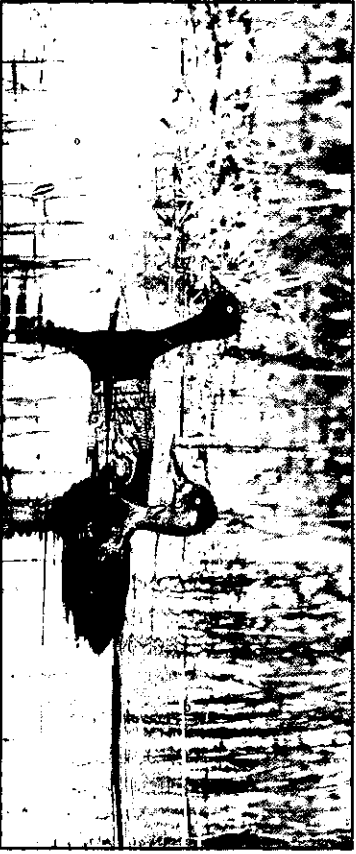
DU researchers have identified several other areas of study that may help determine the causes of the scaup decline. The deterioration of staging and wintering habitats used by mid-continent scaup populations could negatively affect the body condition of the birds, which could reduce survival and reproductive effort and success. Declining water quality in the

nation's waterways and in the Gulf of Mexico has reduced the abundance of preferred scaup foods, particularly fingernail clams and other native bivalves. In contrast, exotic zebra mussels have dramatically increased on many major scaup staging and wintering areas. Consumption of heavy metals and organic chemicals concentrated in scaup foods may adversely affect the body condition, survival, and reproductive success of the birds. Other possible threats to scaup and other waterfowl are increasing development and climate changes in the western boreal forest of Canada, where the majority of lesser scaup breed.

Having identified the most promising areas and approaches for future scaup research, DU and its partners are actively working to raise funds to support this critical work. Hopefully, these efforts will unravel the mystery of the scaup decline and enable waterfowl managers to devise conservation strategies that will help the birds make a recovery. ■

Conservation Strategies

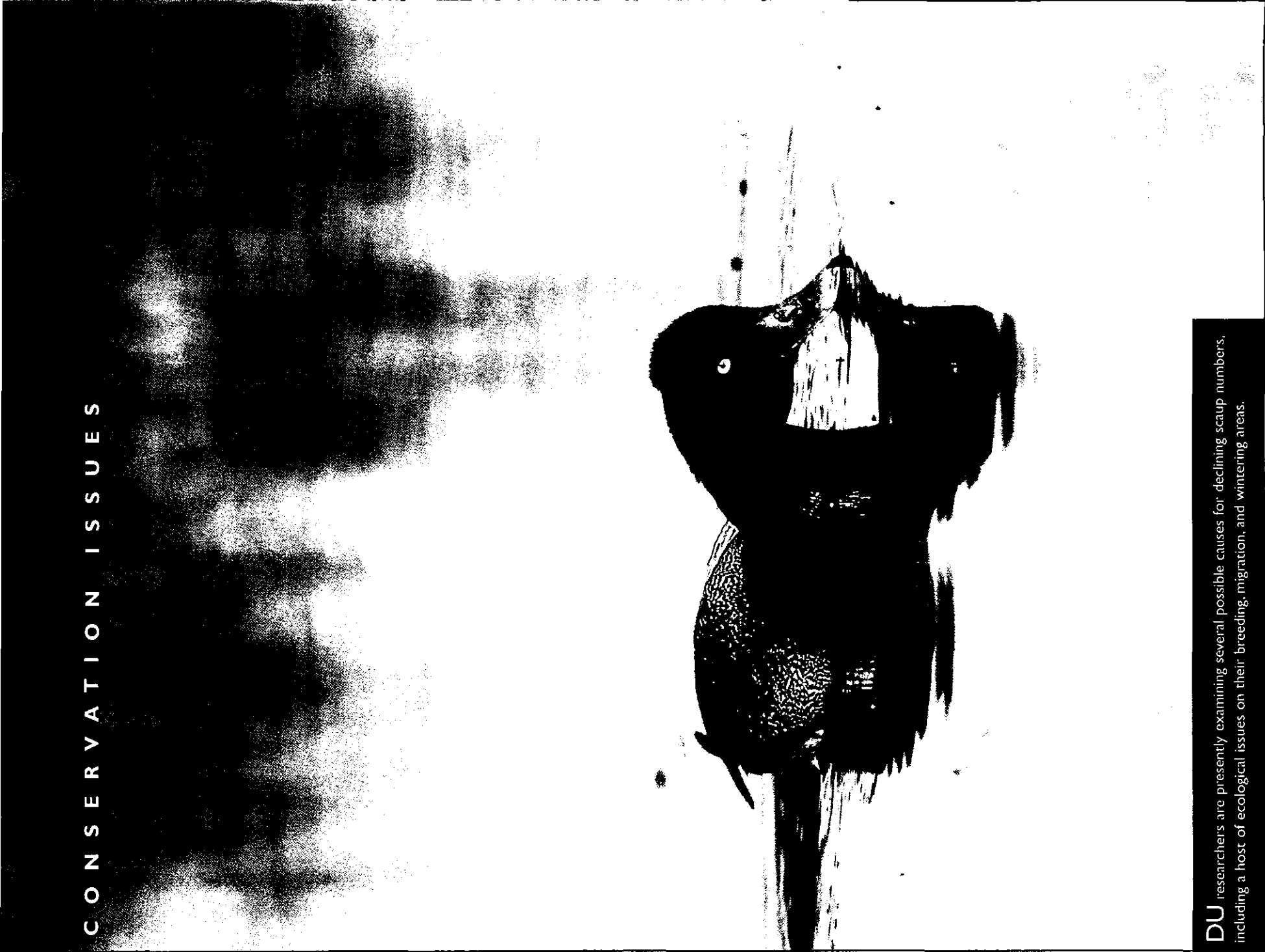
- Establish research programs examining cause-and-effect relationships between various environmental conditions and declining scaup numbers
- Make the acquisition of new funding for scaup research a high conservation priority
- Design new management programs to implement promising findings from research programs



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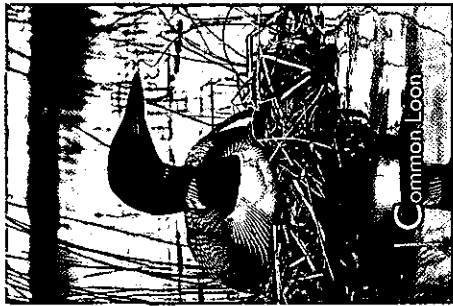
DU researchers are presently examining several possible causes for declining scaup numbers, including a host of ecological issues on their breeding, migration, and wintering areas.

©CLIFF BEITTEL



The western boreal forest ranks a close second to the prairies in its importance to breeding waterfowl. The region's diverse wetlands are home to a great variety of other wildlife species, from moose to loons.

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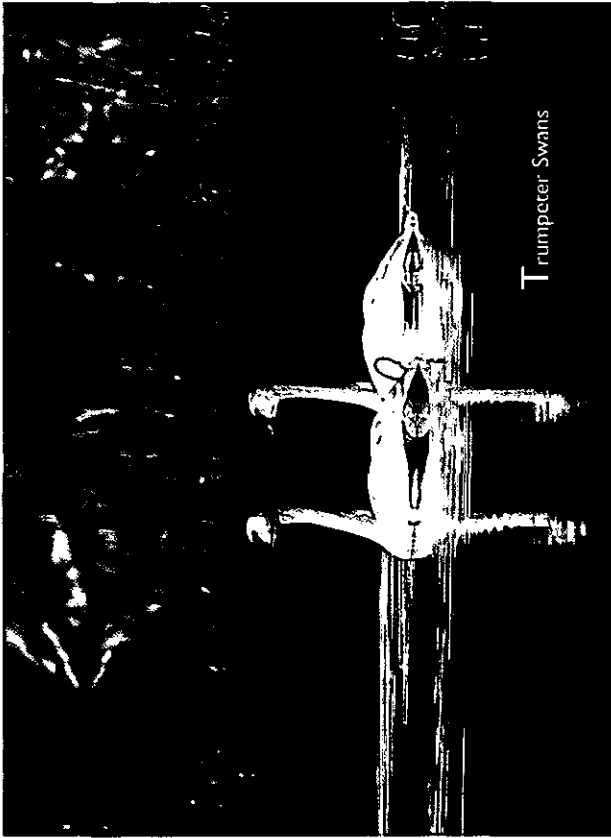
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Conservation Goals

- Maintain adequate habitat to sustain waterfowl populations at levels of the 1970s
- Obtain a greater understanding of wetland and waterfowl ecology in the region through research
- Develop techniques and gather information required to establish more specific habitat goals within the next five years
- Map more than 2 million square miles of landcover across Alaska during the next 20 years

boreal wetlands. This information will be used by DU and its partners to work with natural resource managers to ensure that future development in the western boreal forest will be conducted in a sustainable manner that will not adversely affect wetland systems and waterfowl populations.

DU's Western Boreal Forest Initiative is off to a strong start thanks to a \$2.1 million grant from Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This generous one-year grant will also help to establish the Canadian Boreal Trust Project, a new DU Canada program that will support the efforts of conservationists, governments, First Nations, and industry to establish protected areas, improve industrial management practices, and sustain economically viable communities throughout the boreal forest. ■



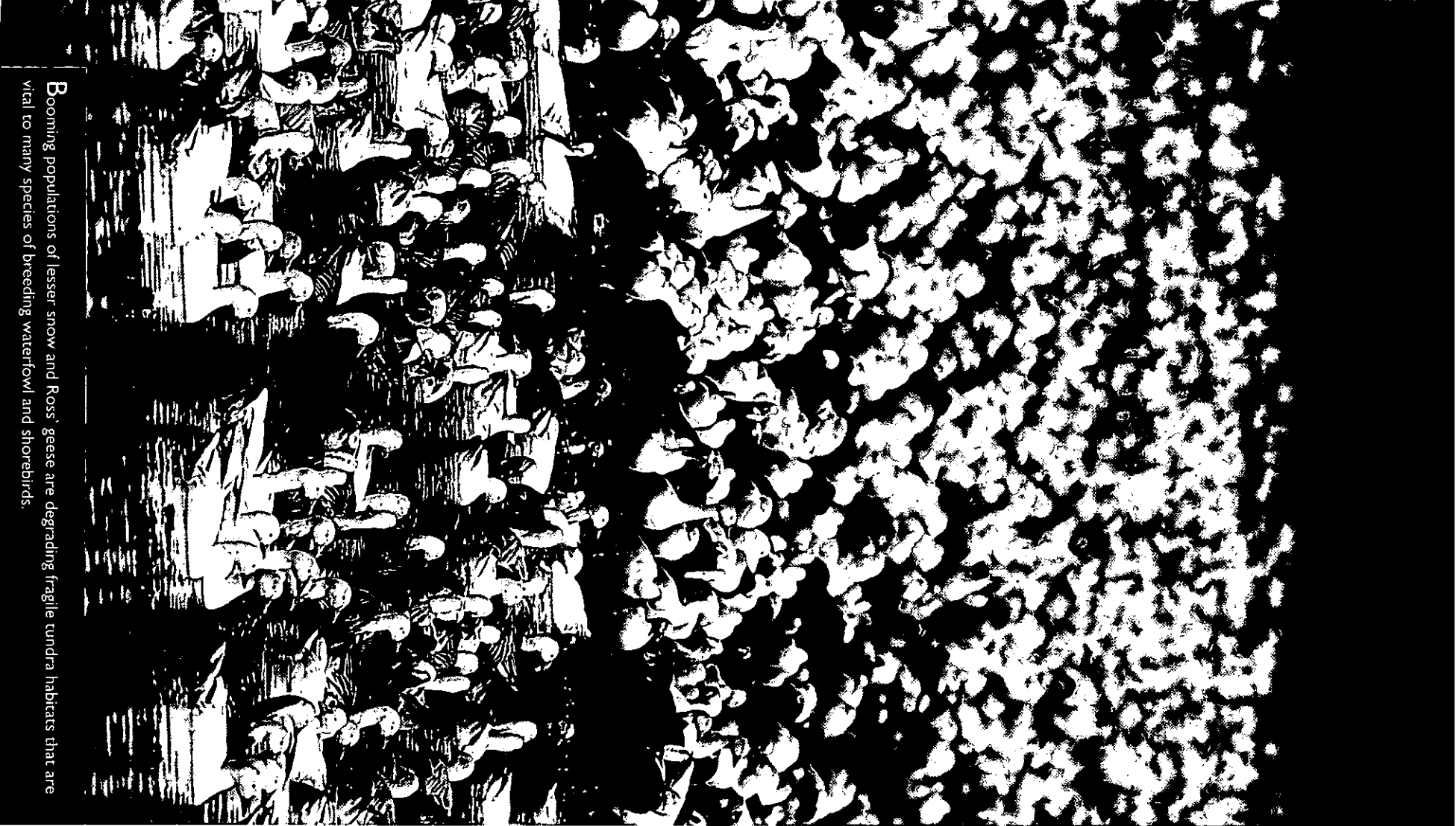
Trumpeter Swans

©STEVE KAUFMAN

HIGH-PRIORITY HABITATS



The restoration of wetlands in the Great Lakes watershed not only helps to increase populations of waterfowl and other wildlife species, but it also helps to improve regional water quality and reduce flooding.



Booming populations of lesser snow and Ross' geese are degrading fragile tundra habitats that are vital to many species of breeding waterfowl and shorebirds.

Conservation Strategies

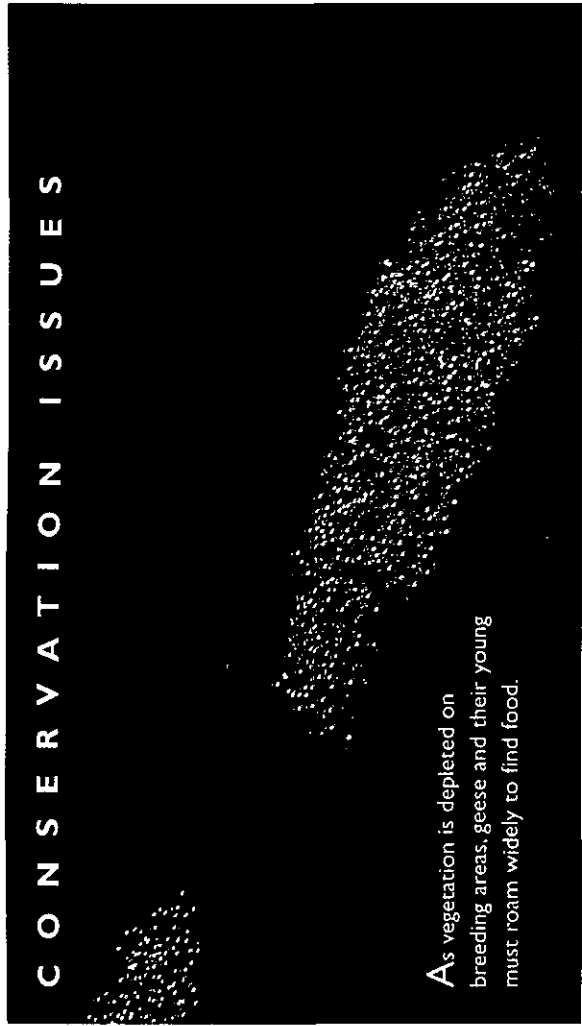
- Monitor the latest research about light goose biology and management, and participate with others in promoting effective population management methods
- Support communications efforts to keep DU members, the public, wildlife managers, scientists, and policy makers informed on developments pertaining to this issue
- Support targeted research programs needed to advance the science of light goose management



Without adequate nutrition, many goslings perish.

©BRUCE BATT

©RON SPOMER, DU



As vegetation is depleted on breeding areas, geese and their young must roam widely to find food.

GERUICE BATT

Light Geese

Proactive management is required to prevent exploding populations of these birds from overwhelming Arctic ecosystems

For several years, waterfowl managers have recognized that overabundant light geese (lesser snow, greater snow, and Ross' geese) are degrading and destroying fragile vegetation on their tundra breeding grounds. Even worse, this devastation is expanding beyond historic nesting colony boundaries into surrounding areas. Scientists have concluded that without effective management the geese will ultimately destroy the vast majority of their breeding areas. Whole Arctic ecosystems are in peril along with all the plant and animal communities that are supported by these habitats.



Ross' Geese

The only solution to the present overabundance of light geese is to reduce populations of the birds to levels that their habitat can support. Ducks Unlimited has taken a leadership role in educating policy makers and the public about this situation. In coordination with many government agencies and other partners, DU has sustained a very effective, wide-ranging communications program in the print and electronic media. DU staff have given testimony at key policy forums and have written or contributed to dozens of magazine and newspaper articles and radio and television broadcasts on the subject.

DU's efforts helped to bring about special hunting seasons in 1999, which dramatically expanded light goose harvest opportunities for waterfowlers. These management actions already appear to be working. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, waterfowlers in the U.S. bagged 1.3 million light geese during the 1999-2000 hunting seasons. With an estimated harvest of 100,000 birds in Canada, the North American harvest likely exceeded 1.4 million birds. Waterfowl biologists predict that, at this rate, the overall mid-continent light goose population could decrease by half; and by 2008, the birds could reach a level their habitat can support. ■

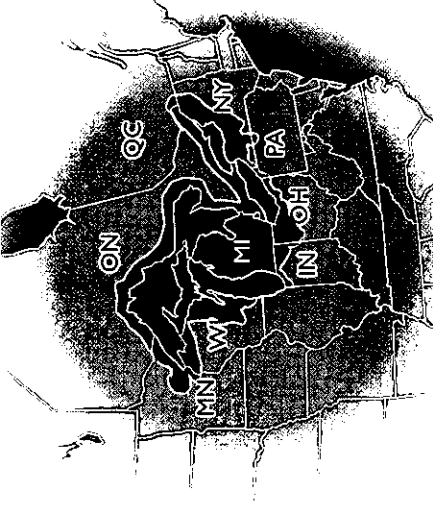
Great Lakes Watershed

The embattled wetlands of this densely populated region provide critical breeding and migration habitat for Mississippi and Atlantic flyway waterfowl

The vast watershed of North America's Great Lakes encompasses a remarkable diversity of wetlands, including potholes, glacial lakes, beaver ponds, riparian bottomlands, forest bogs, and coastal marshes and bays. Located at the crossroads of the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways, these habitats annually host more than 5 million migrating waterfowl, including some 3 million ducks and 2 million Canada geese and tundra swans. The region also supports more than 1 million breeding mallards, as well as significant numbers of breeding wood ducks, black ducks, blue-winged teal, and Canada geese.

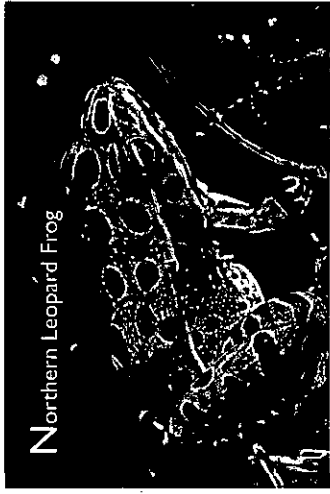
One of the most densely populated areas of the U.S. and Canada, the Great Lakes region has suffered tremendous wetland losses, with some areas having lost more than 90 percent of their original wetlands. The extensive degradation of coastal marshes and bay habitats has led to significant changes in the distribution of several waterfowl species, especially diving ducks, and may have contributed to the decline of continental scap and black duck populations. In addition, a lack of suitable wetland habitat appears to be the primary factor limiting breeding waterfowl populations in the Great Lakes watershed. If wetlands continue to be lost at present rates, the region is likely to experience sharp declines in waterfowl populations, as well as poorer water quality and diminished flood protection.

Conserving critical wetlands and associated uplands is the objective of DU's Great Lakes Initiative—a conservation partnership involving a broad coalition of public and private sector cooperators. DU and its partners deliver a variety of conservation programs in several major focus areas of critical importance to waterfowl and other wildlife. For example,



Five-Year Conservation Goals

- Protect 4,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands through acquisition and conservation easements
- Restore and enhance 125,000 acres of waterfowl breeding and migration habitat
- Establish habitat restoration, GIS planning, and education programs to improve, measure, and monitor water quality in major watersheds of the Great Lakes
- Educate the public about the importance of DU's wetland conservation programs
- Determine mallard productivity and the best management practices for waterfowl and the control of exotic species in the region



Northern Leopard Frog

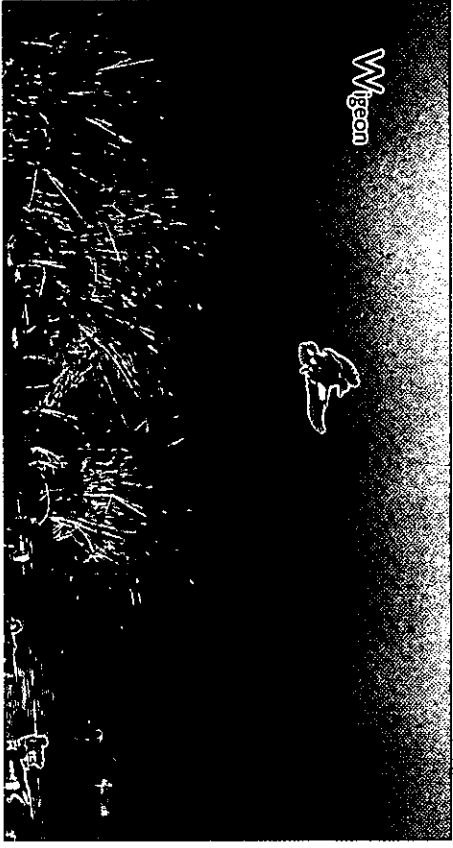
©BRIAN M. WOLITSKI

DU recently dedicated a 600-acre conservation project on Wisconsin's Joel Marsh Wildlife Management Area. Located four miles west of Turtle Lake in the northwest corner of the state, the project promises to be one of the premier waterfowl production areas in the Great Lakes region. The land was acquired by the state from private landowners, and DU funded habitat work to provide secure nesting areas for breeding ducks. In addition to waterfowl, many other game and nongame species will benefit from this exceptional project. ■



Canvasbacks

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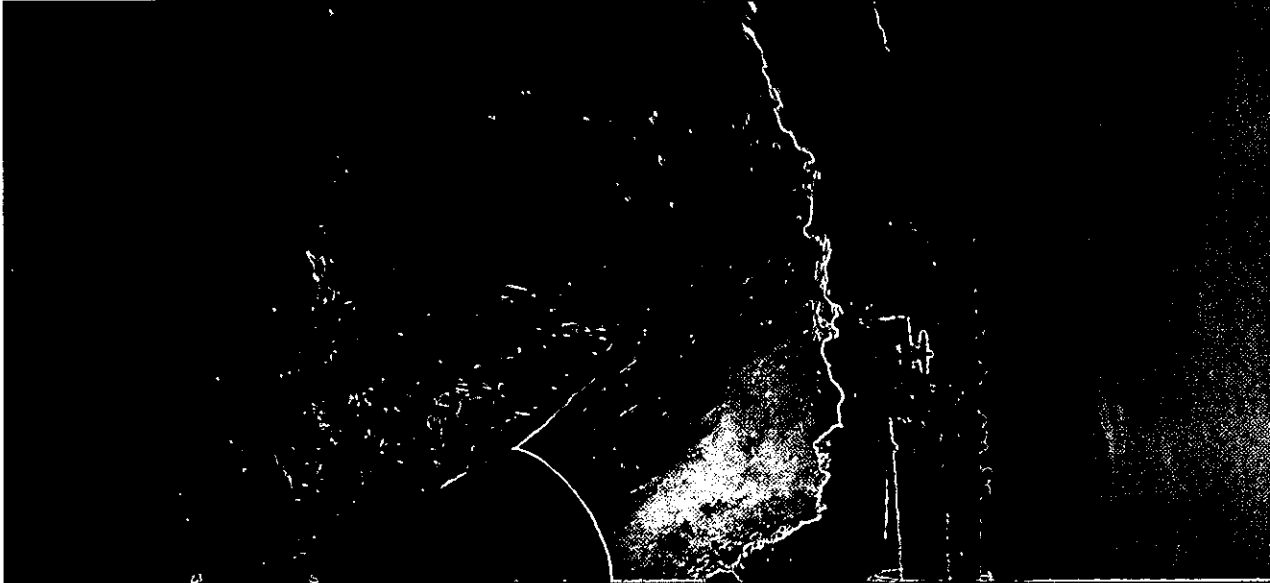
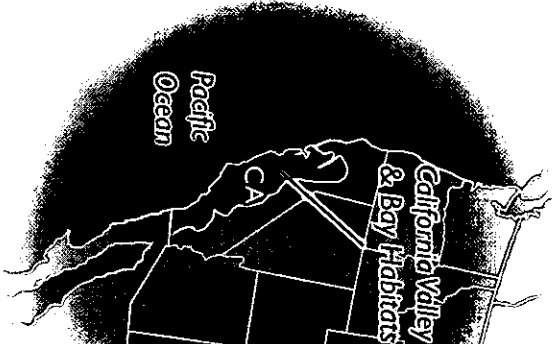
Central Valley/ Coastal California

This state's valley and bay wetlands are among the most important, and imperiled, wildlife habitats in North America

The wetlands of California's vast Central Valley have historically hosted some of the largest concentrations of wintering waterfowl in the world. Unfortunately,

the wholesale loss of wetlands in the region has resulted in sharp declines in wintering waterfowl populations. More than 95 percent of its original wetlands and 90 percent of its riparian corridors have been destroyed or modified. In addition to the loss of natural habitats, small-grain agricultural lands, which presently provide critical feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl, are under siege by ever expanding urban development. Over the next 40 years, the state's human population is projected to double, with extensive urban development expected to take place in the Central Valley.

In response to the grave threats facing waterfowl and other wildlife, DU established its Valley CARE program in 1993 to restore wetlands in the Central Valley. More recently, DU has expanded this program to conserve many of California's threatened coastal habitats as well. These efforts, conducted in partnership with duck clubs, other private landowners, and public agencies, provide critical habitat for wintering waterfowl and help to support California's rich waterfowling tradition. Because water supplies are limited and many watersheds support rare or declining fish species, the design and construction of efficient, fish-safe water-delivery systems are central to DU's wetland conservation efforts.



Another component of Valley/Bay CARE is cooperation with the agricultural community. Farmers flood more than 200,000 acres of rice fields in the Sacramento Valley each winter, providing essential food resources for wintering waterfowl in the region. DU has recently launched a new program to purchase conservation easements from willing landowners in major rice-growing areas to protect these critical agricultural lands from future development. To help guide Valley/Bay CARE in the challenging years ahead, DU is presently developing interactive land-use planning models using geographic information systems technology. These models, which incorporate multiple layers of landscape data into a user-friendly map format, will help DU and its partners identify the highest priority areas for the conservation of wetlands, uplands, and agricultural lands. ■

Issues

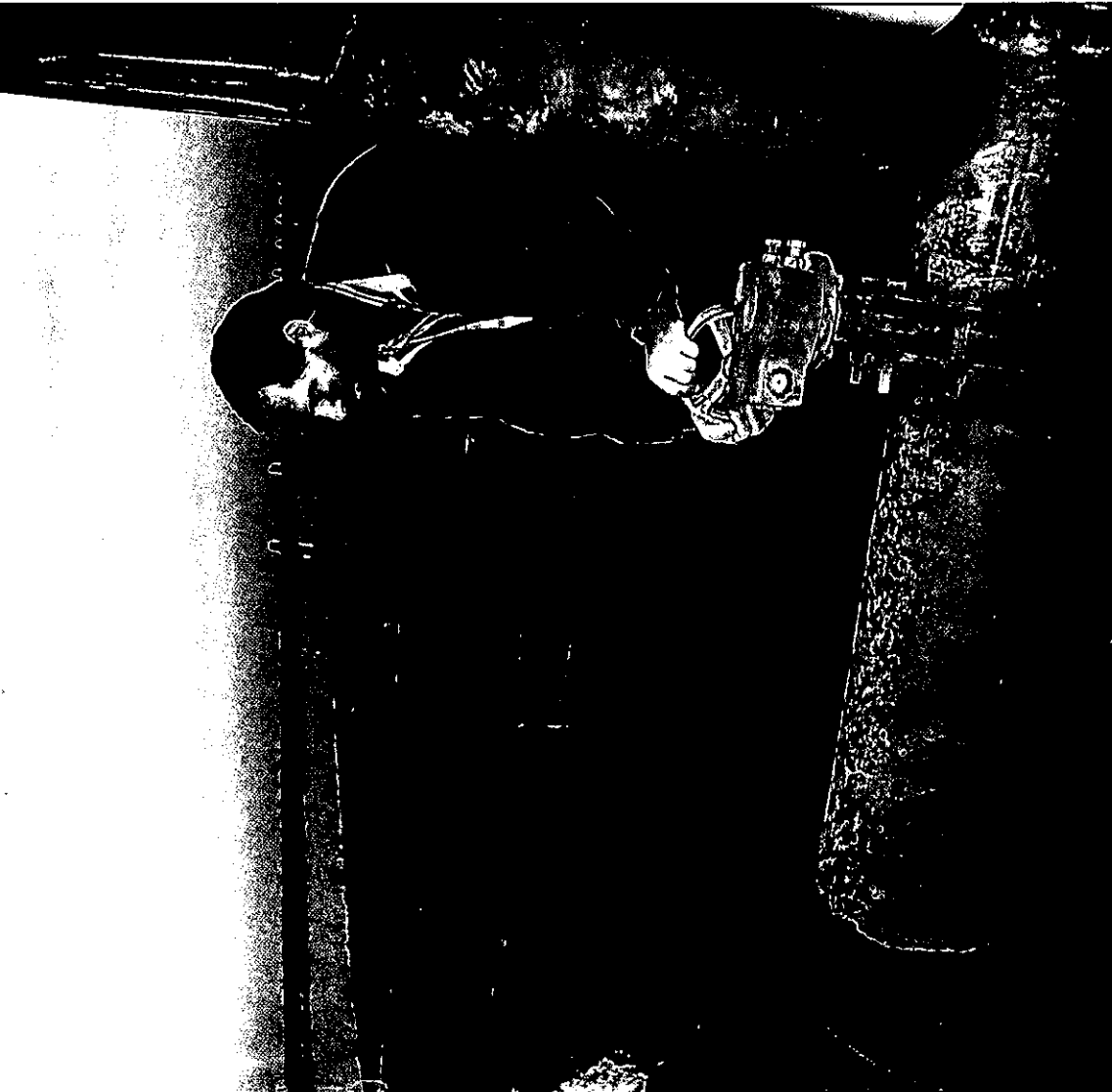
In these rapidly changing times, some critical waterfowl conservation issues require solutions beyond DU's traditional habitat conservation programs. The following are examples of how DU is working on several fronts to find long-term solutions to the conservation challenges facing waterfowl and other wetland wildlife.



Conservation

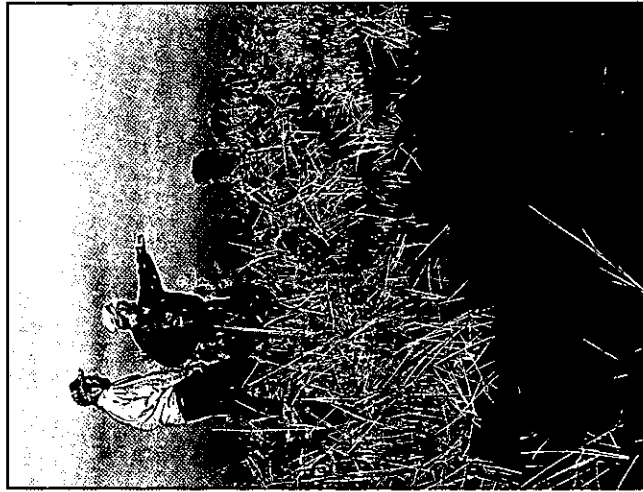
Five-Year Conservation Goals

- Protect 5,000 acres of wetlands and agricultural lands via conservation easements
- Restore 10,000 acres and enhance 50,000 acres of valley and bay habitats
- Develop effective approaches of working with industry and others to ensure that effective, functioning wetland ecosystems are restored or created as a result of mitigation actions
- Complete placement of fish screens on all diversions on Lower Butte Creek, and begin fish screen operations on Yuba Creek to protect wetlands
- Complete land-use planning modeling for all wetland areas in the Central Valley



©RON SPOMER, DU

Because water supplies are limited in California, DU and its partners help private landowners develop efficient, fish-safe water-delivery systems to manage wetlands for waterfowl and other wildlife.

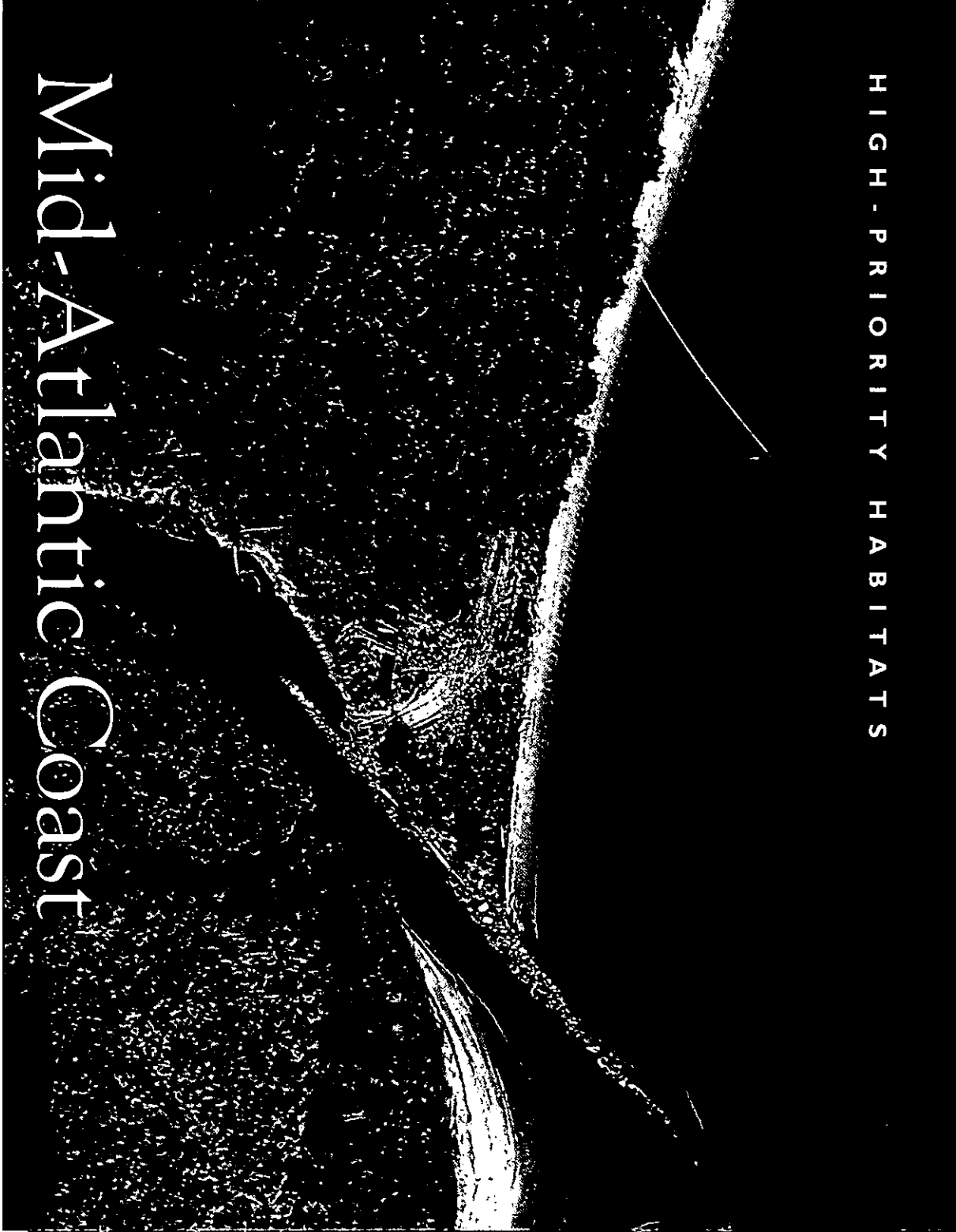


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Mallards

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Mid-Atlantic Coast

In this rapidly developing region, watershed conservation is critical to both wildlife and people

The Mid-Atlantic Coast region recognized by DU's Conservation Plan includes portions of four large geographic areas: the North Atlantic Coastal Plain, Southern

Atlantic Coastal Plain, Southern Piedmont, and Appalachian Mountains. These focus areas contain a great diversity of productive wetlands and associated uplands, including fresh and brackish tidal marshes, salt marshes, bays, barrier islands, beaches, dunes, bottomland hardwood forests, beaver ponds, and cypress-tupelo swamps. They also encompass the watersheds of several major river systems and estuaries.

Located in the heart of the Atlantic Flyway, this region supports the majority of migrating and wintering Atlantic brant, greater snow geese, tundra swans, black ducks,

and Atlantic Population Canada geese, as well as continentally significant numbers of mallards, canvasbacks, scaup, green-winged teal, wood ducks, and other migratory birds. In addition, the region's wetlands, which trap floodwaters and filter sediments and other pollutants, are vital to regional water quality.

Rapid human population growth, especially along the coast, poses a grave threat to many of the region's remaining wetlands and wildlife habitats. Vast expanses of coastal marsh have already been lost to impoundment and filling, dredging projects, and rising sea levels, while the shorelines of most major estuaries have

been heavily impacted by industrial, commercial, and residential development. Farther inland, the widespread conversion of wetlands and forests has

Pectoral Sandpiper

©ARTHUR MORRIS/BIRDS AS ART



Nearly the entire continental redhead population spends the winter along the Gulf Coast, with the majority of the birds congregating on the Laguna Madre of Texas and Mexico. DU and its partners are presently engaged in several ambitious efforts to conserve and restore the region's declining wetlands.

across 14 south Louisiana parishes. This ambitious project will include the restoration and enhancement of more than 62,000 acres of coastal marsh and moist-soil wetlands on two national wildlife refuges and one state wildlife management area, and the seasonal flooding of more than 8,000 acres of privately owned agricultural lands, primarily rice fields. The conservation of these habitats will help ensure that south Louisiana continues to support large populations of migrating and wintering

waterfowl, shorebirds, and a wide variety of other wildlife. Critical support for this project has been provided by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; North American Land Co., Inc.; Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Region 4; U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service; Miami Corporation; and Cameron Parish Police Jury. ■



Alligator

©F. EUGENE HESTER

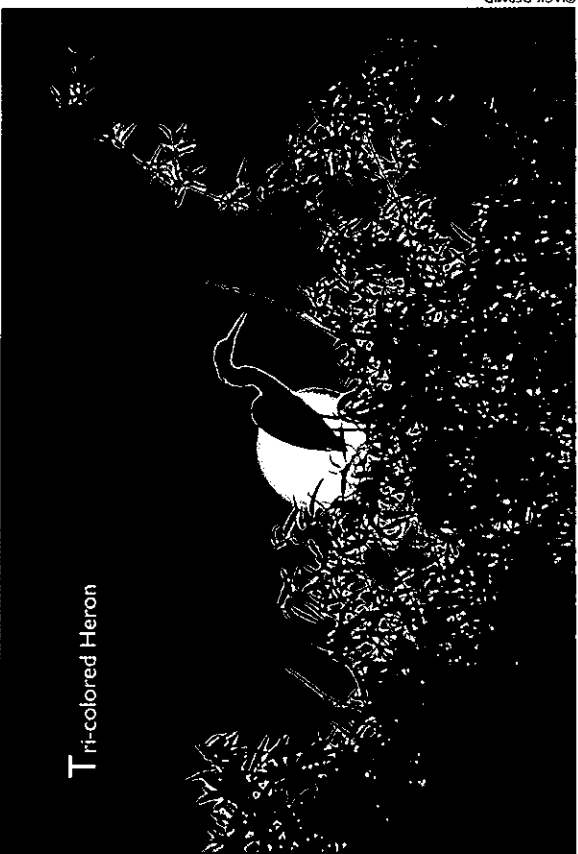


Gadwall

©GARY KRAMER

Five-Year Conservation Goals

- Maintain 115,000 acres of wetlands and waterfowl habitat presently conserved in the Gulf Coast region
- Protect approximately 42,500 acres of waterfowl habitat on private lands in Louisiana and Texas, through state partners programs
- Determine the feasibility of a conservation easement program in the region, with the possibility of protecting a minimum of 5,000 acres of habitat per year within designated focus areas
- Restore or enhance 60,000 acres of waterfowl habitat on private lands through partners programs and other efforts, and restore or enhance 20,000 acres on public lands in cooperation with state and federal agencies
- Encourage active management on a minimum of 15,000 acres annually through extension and technical assistance programs
- Maintain and expand existing conservation partnerships, while simultaneously exploring and developing additional partnerships that are consistent with DU's mission



©JACK DERMID

Gulf Coastal Prairie

The rapid decline of coastal marshes and rice production in this region threatens millions of migrating and wintering waterfowl

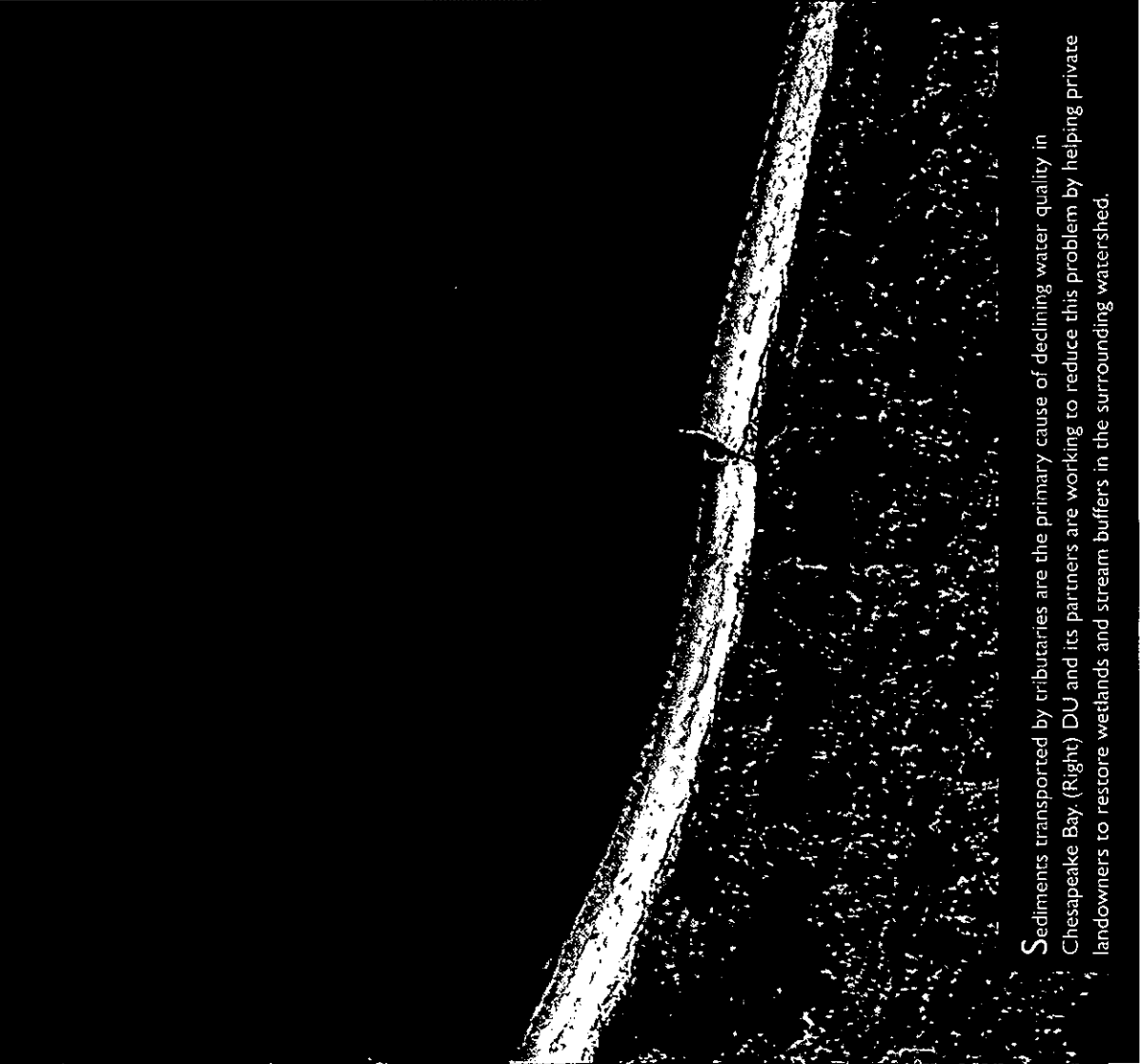
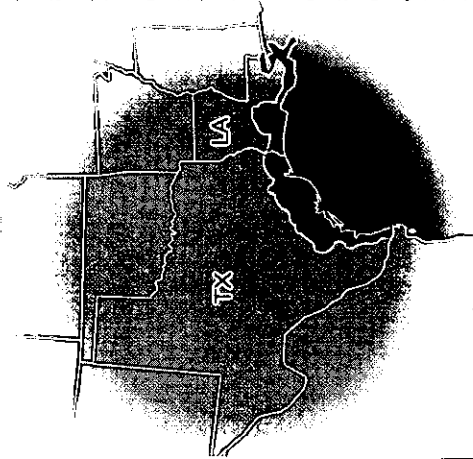
The Central Flyway's most important waterfowl wintering area, the Gulf Coastal Prairie is a band of marshes and low-lying agricultural lands bordering the Texas and Louisiana coasts. During years of high continental waterfowl populations, this region winters more than 13 million ducks and 1 million geese. Gulf coast habitats are of particular importance to migrating blue-winged teal and wintering pintails, gadwall, green-winged teal, wigeon, redheads, lesser scaup, white-fronted geese, and lesser snow geese. In addition, an estimated 90 percent of North America's mottled ducks, which may number between 600,000 and 1 million birds, reside in coastal Louisiana and Texas, and an undetermined, but apparently increasing, number of black-bellied and fulvous whistling ducks now breed in the region.

Although the Gulf Coastal Prairie remains one of North America's most wetland-rich areas, the region has suffered staggering losses of habitat to rising sea levels, subsidence, and development. During the past 50 years, Louisiana lost nearly 900,000 acres of coastal wetlands, and, unless something is done to halt this decline, the state could lose an additional 630,000 acres of wetlands over the next five decades. In Texas, the scope and rate of coastal wetland loss has also been substantial, but less severe than in Louisiana.

With the widespread loss of freshwater

prairie marshes, flooded rice fields now provide critical resting and feeding habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Unfortunately, economic pressures have resulted in a 47 percent decline in rice production in the region since 1974. As rice acreage declines, waterfowl may have to rely more heavily on saltwater habitats, which are generally less productive for the birds. Recent research conducted by DU biologists and scientists at Texas A & M-Kingsville found that pintails frequenting estuaries generally weighed less than pintails that wintered farther inland. In addition, feeding experiments indicated that estuarine foods were less nutritious than foods present in freshwater habitats.

To help slow or reverse the decline of Gulf Coast wetlands, DU is engaged in a full range of conservation programs throughout the region. For example, DU is presently working with several government agencies, corporations, foundations, and private landowners to conserve wetland habitat on 68,738 acres



Sediments transported by tributaries are the primary cause of declining water quality in Chesapeake Bay. (Right) DU and its partners are working to reduce this problem by helping private landowners to restore wetlands and stream buffers in the surrounding watershed.

©RON SPORER, DU



©GARY KRAHER

resulted in increased levels of sediment-laden runoff entering tributaries of major estuaries, such as Chesapeake Bay, which has killed extensive beds of submersed aquatic plants critical to waterfowl and fisheries.

To help slow the tide of waterfowl habitat loss and create a healthier environment in the Mid-Atlantic Coast region, DU works with several public and private sector cooperators to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated uplands. For example,

last year, DU partnered with the National Park Service to restore 200 acres of coastal marsh on the William Floyd Estate on Long Island's Moriches Bay. This project involved the installation of dozens of ditch plugs, which increased water retention in the marsh. The stunning success of this project was made readily apparent by the increased numbers of black ducks, green-winged teal, and shorebirds that visited the area during the spring and fall migrations. ■



©RON SPORER, DU

Five-Year Conservation Goals

- Protect 2,500 acres of wetlands and associated uplands by acquisition and via conservation easements
- Restore and enhance 4,000 acres in the North Atlantic Coastal Plain, 4,500 acres in the Southern Atlantic Coastal Plain, 5,000 acres in the Southeastern Plains/Piedmont, and 1,500 acres in the Appalachian Mountains
- Establish GIS-assisted habitat restoration, planning, and education programs to improve, measure, and monitor water quality in major river watersheds
- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff in these watersheds by 10 percent
- Educate the public about the importance of DU's conservation efforts in the region



Canada Geese and Brood

of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. The research found that, although mallard body weights in early winter were near the long-term average, decreases in weight from early to late winter were the largest yet observed. These results, as well as recent research indicating that the abundance of waste grain in harvested rice fields in the MAV may have declined, highlight the need for expanded habitat conservation efforts in the region.

The Restoring the Delta initiative, launched in 1999 to fulfill MAV conservation goals, is dedicated to creating healthier landscapes across this seven-state region for waterfowl, other wildlife, and people. DU is working with government agencies, corporations, organizations, foundations, and thousands of private landowners to flood harvested croplands during the winter months, enhance moist soil and forested wetlands, and restore bottomland hardwoods. In support of these efforts, DU and its partners are conducting a variety of research on biological, economic, and social issues affecting conservation in the region, and are working to educate the public about the importance of conserving these critical wildlife habitats. For example, DU has provided extensive coverage on its Web site and in other media about the present water quality crisis in the Gulf of Mexico and about how wetlands restored within the Mississippi River watershed help to alleviate this serious problem by storing floodwaters and filtering runoff. ■

Wood Stork

A photograph of a Wood Stork standing in a marshy area. The stork is white with a long, straight neck and a long, pointed beak. It is facing right, and its reflection is visible in the water.

©RICHARD DAY/DAYBREAK IMAGERY

The Mississippi Alluvial Valley supports more wintering mallards than any other place on the continent. Recent research indicates that, during dry winters, there may be insufficient wetland habitat in the region to support large waterfowl populations.

A photograph of a group of mallards in a marshy area. The birds are mostly brown and white, with some showing the characteristic mallard pattern. They are standing in shallow water or mud.

©BILL MARCHEL.COM

Five-Year
Conservation Goals

■ Maintain 375,000 acres already conserved in the MAV, including 135,000 acres protected and 240,000 restored or enhanced

■ Protect 150,000 acres of private lands via state partners programs

■ Expand the existing conservation easement program and develop focus areas for the entire MAV, with a goal of protecting a minimum of 12,000 acres a year

■ Restore or enhance 150,000 acres of private land through partners programs and other efforts, and 35,000 acres of public land in cooperation with state and federal agencies

■ Encourage active management on a minimum of 100,000 acres per year through extension and technical assistance efforts

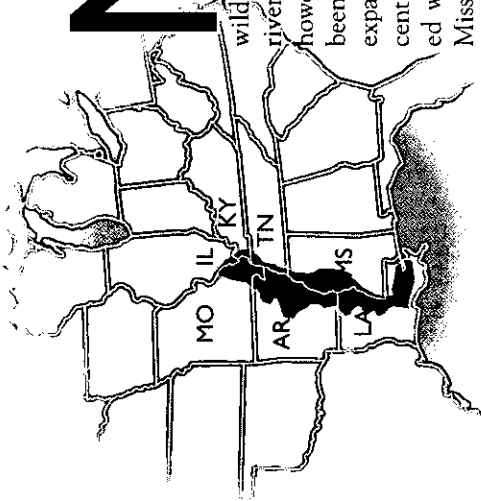


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Mississippi Alluvial Valley

The wetlands of the Lower Mississippi River watershed are vital to wintering waterfowl and water quality in the Gulf of Mexico



North America's most important wintering area for mallards and wood ducks, the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) was once a great wilderness of bottomland hardwood forests, rivers, and swamps. During the past century, however, the ecology of this storied region has been changed drastically by drainage and the expansion of agriculture. Today, only 20 percent of the MAV's original network of forested wetlands remains, mostly in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The loss of these critical habitats has not only had a devastating impact on waterfowl and other wildlife, it has also resulted in increased flooding, soil erosion, and nonpoint source pollution, which



© SCOTT NIELSEN, DAK

has contributed to declining water quality in the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. During years with normal to less-than-normal rainfall, insufficient feeding and resting habitat exists in the MAV to meet the wintering needs of large waterfowl populations. In a study supported by the August A. Busch, Jr. Memorial Fund, scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and Ducks Unlimited examined body weights of mallards taken by waterfowlers in the MAV during the winters

Pacific Northwest

The futures of both waterfowl populations and fisheries are tied to the health of this region's wetlands and watersheds

Pacific Northwest wetlands are among the most productive and diverse on the continent, supporting 32 species of waterfowl and many other species of fish and wildlife. Portions of eastern Washington and Oregon are important breeding areas for mallards, cinnamon teal, redheads, and Canada geese, while the region's vast network of riparian and coastal wetlands provides migration and wintering habitat for millions of additional waterfowl and supports some of the world's richest fisheries.

As in many parts of North America, the Pacific Northwest has suffered extensive wetland losses. During the next decade, the region could potentially lose many of its remaining wetlands to urban sprawl from rapidly growing cities, such as Portland, Seattle, and Tacoma. In 1996, DU launched its Pacific Northwest Initiative to protect and restore wetland and wildlife habitats throughout several major focus areas in Washington and Oregon. North of the border, DU Canada is



Wigeon

WIGEON © CATHY AND GORDON ILLG

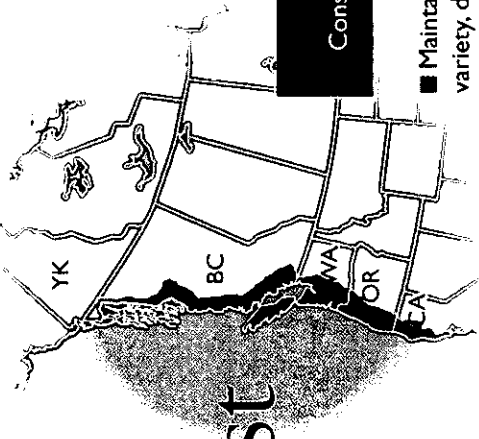
directing similar conservation work in key waterfowl areas of British Columbia.

Many of DU's conservation projects focus largely on the restoration of coastal and floodplain wetlands. Given the great importance of these habitats to salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, and other fish species, a variety of fish ladders and other structures are used to provide fish free access to and from suitable habitats. This holistic approach to conservation is helping DU to form partnerships with

fisheries conservation groups, which are providing major new support for wetland restoration projects across the region.

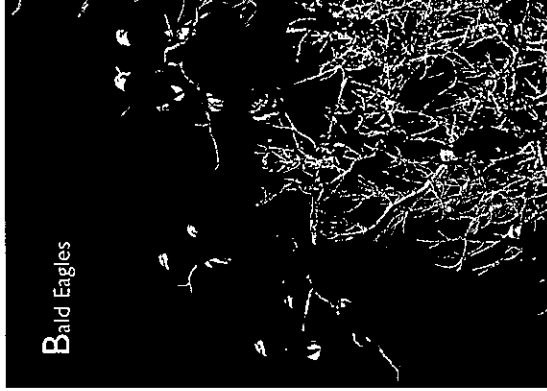
One of the most ambitious cooperative wetland restoration projects in the Pacific Northwest is currently underway on Washington's Chinook River estuary. Working with several partners, DU helped to purchase more than 1,000 acres of idle farmland that was previously drained and diked near the mouth of the estuary. In the near future, DU and its partners will restore natural tidal fluctuations throughout the area, rejuvenating coastal wetlands that will support several species of migratory birds and increase the productivity of the fishery. Critical support for this effort has been provided by the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Lower Columbia River Fish Recovery Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sea Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Columbia Land Trust. ■

Floodplain wetlands in the Pacific Northwest are important to juvenile salmon and trout as well as waterfowl. DU and its partners install fish ladders and other structures to give fish free access to and from restored wetlands.



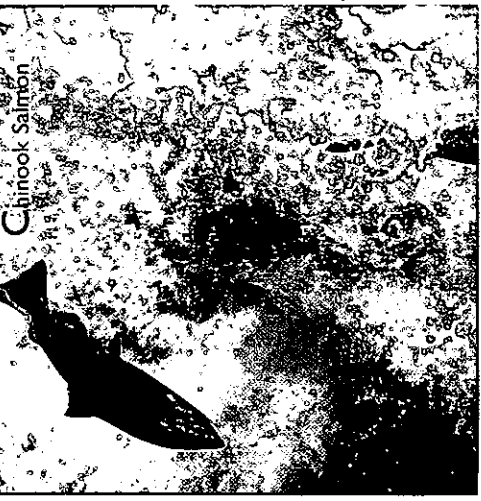
Five-Year Conservation Goals

- Maintain the existing variety, distribution, and relative abundance of waterfowl and their habitats throughout the Pacific Northwest region
- Secure an additional 12,350 acres of waterfowl habitat
- Restore 10,000 acres of wetlands



Bald Eagles

© JIM OTERSDORF



Chinook Salmon

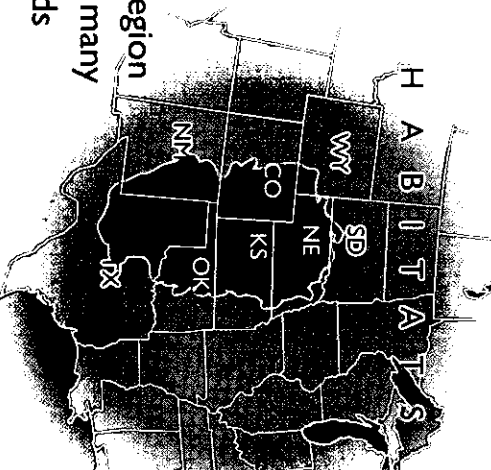
TM & PAT LEESON / CORNPOT.COM

- Enhance wildlife values on 20,000 acres of diked agricultural land and altered wetlands, which support waterfowl and shorebirds

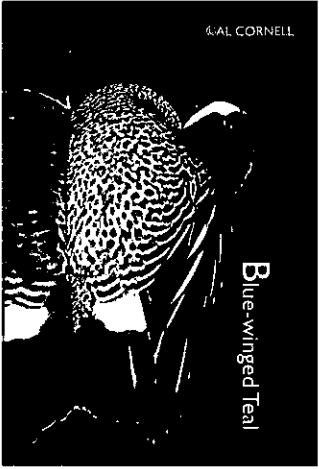
- Provide technical assistance for the management of wildlife habitat on 74,000 acres of private land that is either secured for wildlife or is being appropriately managed for wildlife

Southern Great Plains

Key wetland systems in this semiarid region provide essential migration habitat for many mid-continent waterfowl and shorebirds



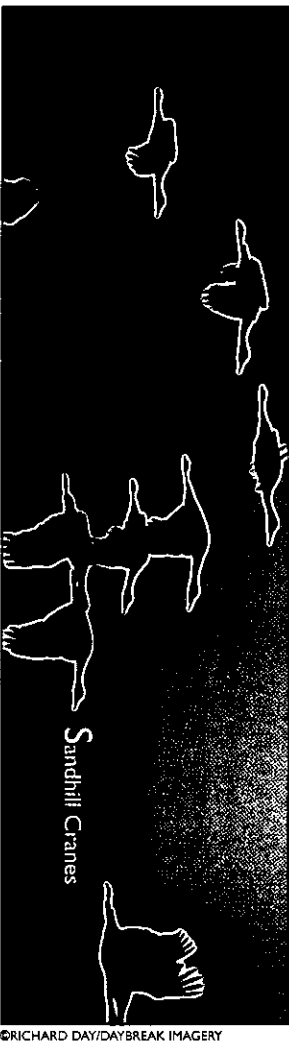
The Southern Great Plains region encompasses a large area extending from southeastern Wyoming and west central Nebraska, south through eastern Colorado and west central Kansas and Oklahoma, to eastern New Mexico and west central Texas. Critical waterfowl habitats in this semiarid region include floodplain wetlands found along major rivers, shallow playa lakes, and a handful of large wetland complexes, including Nebraska's Rainwater Basin, Oklahoma's Hackberry Flat, and Kansas' Cheyenne Bottoms and McPherson Valley Wetlands. Collectively, these wetlands provide the bulk of the migration habitat for waterfowl and other wetland birds in the Central Flyway. They also provide wintering habitat for as many as 4 million ducks and 1 million geese and, during wet years, support significant numbers of breeding ducks, especially blue-winged teal.



Blue-winged Teal

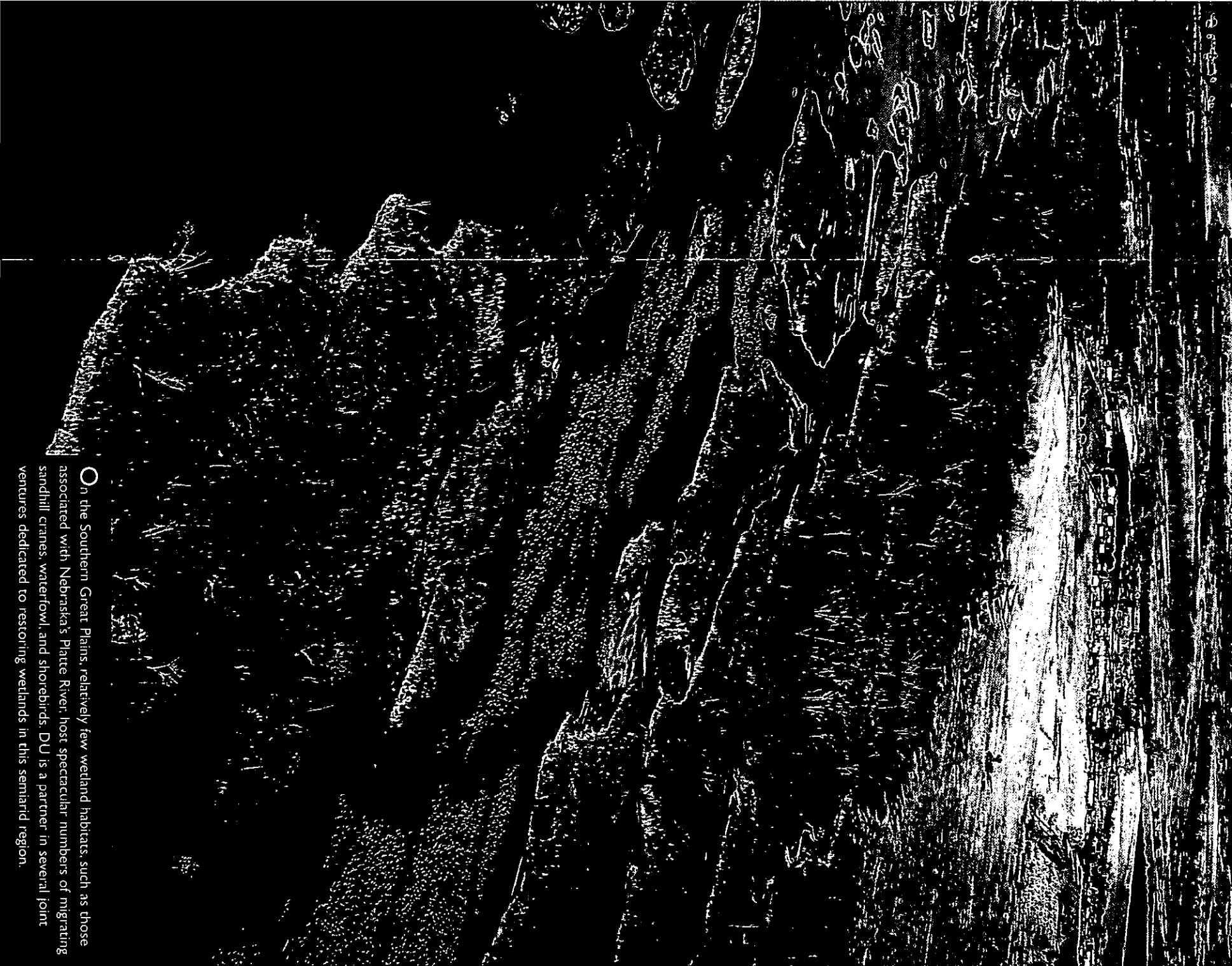
significant reduction in the natural wetland foods required by migrating waterfowl. In addition, limited wetland habitat may result in overcrowding among migrating and wintering waterbirds, making them more vulnerable to catastrophic outbreaks of disease, particularly avian cholera.

Working with several government agencies and private sector partners, Ducks Unlimited provides cost-sharing and technical assistance to restore and enhance wetlands and associated uplands in critical waterfowl areas across the Southern Great Plains. For example, DU and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission recently completed projects on the Kirkpatrick, Pintail, and Sandpiper wildlife management areas in the Rainwater Basin, restoring more than 600 acres of wetlands and associated uplands. The improved habitat provided on these projects will benefit hundreds of thousands of migrating and wintering ducks, geese, and shorebirds. In addition to conserving habitat, DU also supports research on waterfowl diseases, winter mortality, and moist-soil wetland management techniques, and encourages natural resource policies that protect and enhance wetlands and associated uplands in the region. ■



Sandhill Cranes

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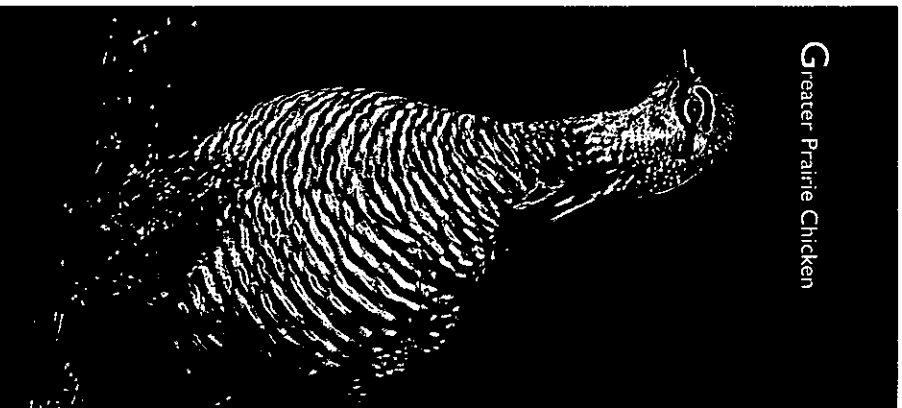


On the Southern Great Plains, relatively few wetland habitats such as those associated with Nebraska's Platte River host spectacular numbers of migrating sandhill cranes, waterfowl, and shorebirds. DU is a partner in several joint ventures dedicated to restoring wetlands in this semiarid region.

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Five-Year Conservation Goals

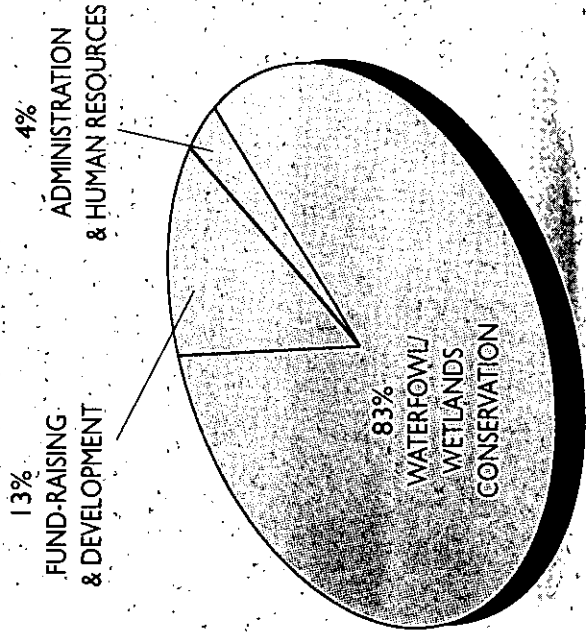
- Protect, restore, enhance, and manage wetland and waterfowl habitat throughout the region, with particular emphasis on meeting the objectives of the Rainwater Basin and Playa Lakes joint ventures
- Maintain and administer completed projects totaling more than 8,250 acres in the Southern Great Plains
- Protect, restore, and enhance 4,700 acres in the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, 5,000 acres in the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, and an additional 2,500 acres within the region outside of current joint venture boundaries



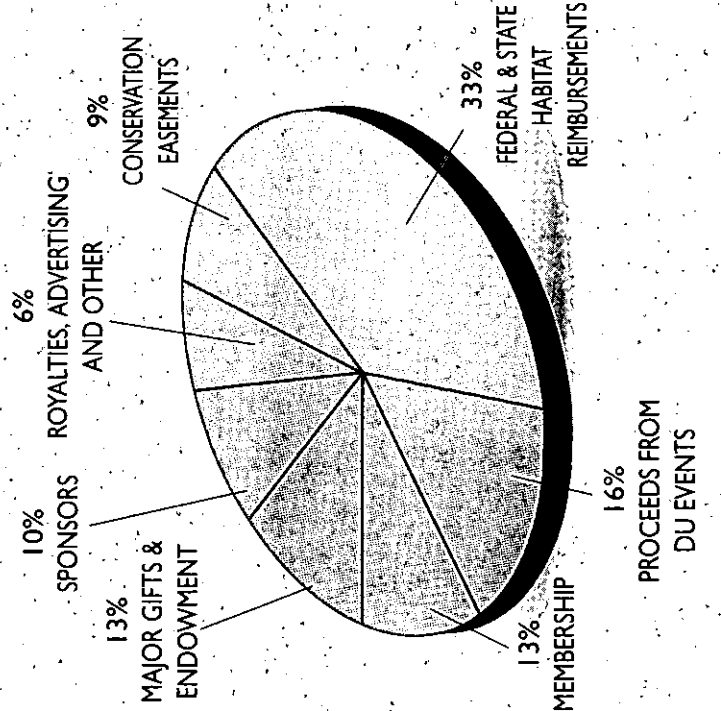
Greater Prairie Chicken

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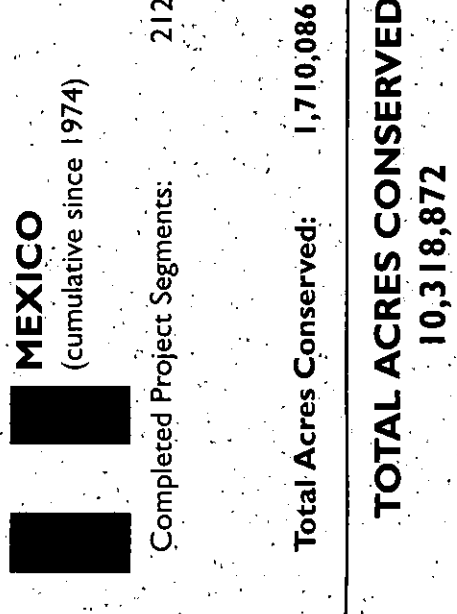
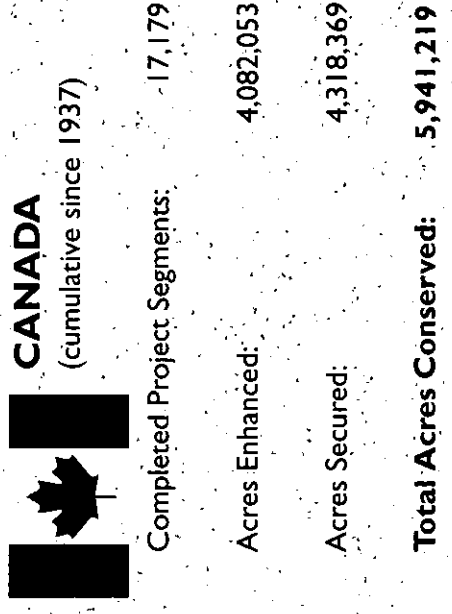
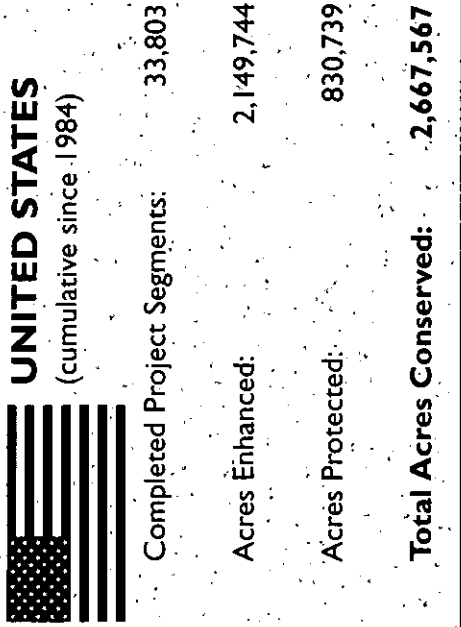
WHERE YOUR DU DOLLAR GOES



SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES



CONSERVATION STATISTICS



UNITED STATES

Sponsors	52,290
Regular Members	569,730
Greenwings	71,072
TOTAL MEMBERS	693,092

Dollars raised in 2002	\$138,519,000
Total dollars since 1937	\$1,725,243,000
2002 U.S. expenditures (MARSH and other Habitat Programs)	\$69,965,000

Transfers to DU Canada:
2002—\$21,130,000
Since 1937—\$570,142,000

Mexico/Latin America Conservation
2002—\$880,000
Since 1974—\$20,388,000

TOP STATES

TOP GRASS ROOTS INCOME

Wisconsin	\$3,924,280
Minnesota	\$3,628,361
Texas	\$3,467,129
California	\$2,783,331
Louisiana	\$2,683,414
Illinois	\$2,509,717
Michigan	\$2,313,513
Missouri	\$2,198,854
Arkansas	\$1,823,546
Iowa	\$1,647,020

TOP STATES

TOTAL MEMBERS

Wisconsin	52,931
Texas	49,152
Minnesota	46,034
California	39,932
Louisiana	35,932
Michigan	32,766
Illinois	30,978
Arkansas	24,035
Missouri	23,809
Iowa	21,403

TOP STATES

TOTAL SPONSORS

Wisconsin	3,811
Minnesota	3,631
Louisiana	3,447
Illinois	3,009
Texas	2,916
Michigan	2,569
California	2,258
Arkansas	2,160
North Carolina	2,016
Missouri	1,636

TOP STATES TOTAL GREENWINGS

Louisiana	8,165
Wisconsin	7,715
Minnesota	7,374
Michigan	4,260
California	3,375
Texas	3,334
Illinois	3,151
North Carolina	2,458
Iowa	2,456
Missouri	1,985

TOP STATES TOTAL LADIES EVENTS INCOME

Wisconsin	\$399,750
Minnesota	\$159,261
Louisiana	\$120,660
South Dakota	\$104,065
Iowa	\$82,678
California	\$70,653
Idaho	\$65,721
Michigan	\$65,360
Georgia	\$31,766
Pennsylvania	\$31,484

TOP STATES MOST NEW LIFE SPONSORS

Minnesota	24
Wisconsin	24
Michigan	22
Arkansas	18
Washington	17
Texas	16
Louisiana	13
Georgia	13
Maryland	9
Illinois	8
South Carolina	8
Virginia	8
Oklahoma	8

TOP STATES EVENT DOLLARS PER CAPITA

South Dakota	\$1,1008
Alaska	\$0.8818
North Dakota	\$0.8094
Arkansas	\$0.7597
Minnesota	\$0.7546
Wisconsin	\$0.7505
Delaware	\$0.6847
Wyoming	\$0.7263
Louisiana	\$0.6294
Nebraska	\$0.6000

TOP STATES MOST INCOME MAJOR DONORS ABOVE LIFE SPONSORS

California	\$2,721,118
Michigan	\$1,596,788
Pennsylvania	\$1,548,788
Illinois	\$973,705
New York	\$655,552
Minnesota	\$646,227
Nebraska	\$445,850
Delaware	\$422,807
Texas	\$416,626
Tennessee	\$403,349

TOP STATES MOST MAJOR DONOR UPGRADES

Minnesota	23
Georgia	21
Michigan	14
Missouri	12
Wisconsin	11
New York	10
Washington	9
Texas	8
Arkansas	6
Louisiana	6
Illinois	6
California	6

TOP STATES PERCENT NET/NET TO GROSS FOR ALL EVENTS

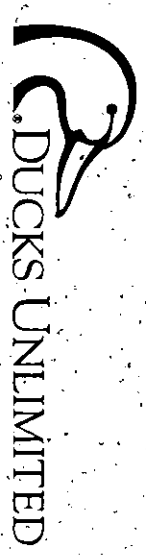
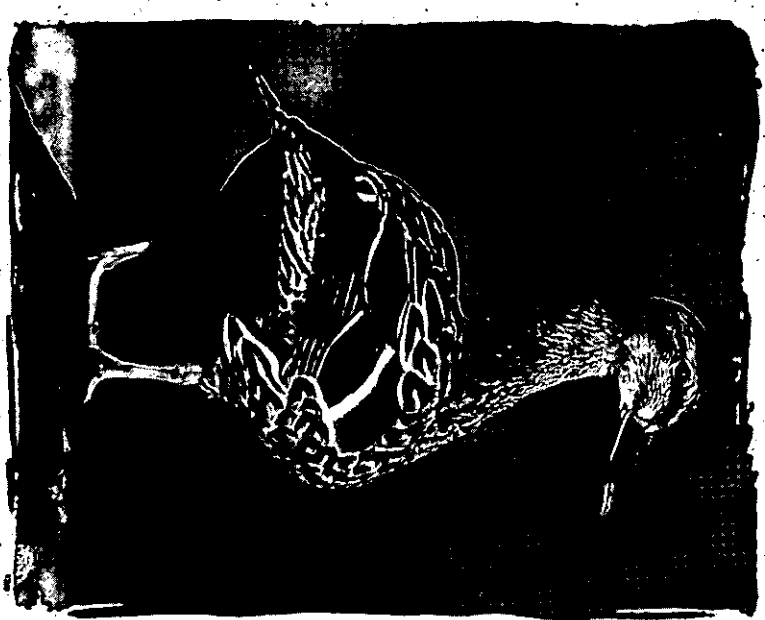
Alabama	66%
Maine	66%
Nebraska	65%
Tennessee	63%
Missouri	62%
Louisiana	61%
Alaska	59%
Arkansas	59%
Delaware	58%
Kentucky	58%
Maryland	58%

TOP STATES TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS EVENT INCOME

Louisiana	\$668,292
Wisconsin	\$634,296
Missouri	\$579,870
Minnesota	\$554,362
Arkansas	\$503,597
Georgia	\$417,728
Illinois	\$415,432
North Carolina	\$392,244
Michigan	\$379,932
Missouri	\$216,903

TOP STATES TOTAL NEW FEATHER SOCIETY PLEDGES

Michigan	165
Louisiana	47
Texas	44
Minnesota	39
Illinois	27
Wisconsin	23
Oklahoma	22
Arkansas	21
Arizona	19
Nebraska	13



PROGRESS SUMMARY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2002

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

Louisiana Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Conservation Programs Annual Report
Fiscal Year – 2002

Ducks Unlimited's wetland conservation program continues to grow and gain popularity. We are finding and responding to excellent opportunities for wetland conservation throughout Louisiana on both private and public lands. Our habitat conservation priorities continue to be the protection, restoration and enhancement of forested wetlands, natural moist soil vegetation, coastal wetlands, and flooded agricultural crops with emphasis on rice. Collectively, these programs have benefited in the development and protection of nearly 154,000 acres of various wetland habitats since conservation activities began for LA with the MARSH program in 1985.

The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the DU Louisiana Conservation Program for the period March 2001 through February 2002.

MARSH (Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat)

To date there are 29 completed projects that have protected or improved over 45,500 acres on public lands in Louisiana. Projects completed in FY02 included development of 987 acres of various habitats on Ouachita WMA, 700 acres of GTR habitat on Russell Sage WMA, and 1,000 acres of vegetation control at Mandalay NWR. Projects to be completed in FY03 include assisting the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with a 300-acre GTR development on Dewey Wills WMA, and partial funding of a new low-lift pump system servicing 860 acres of freshwater marsh habitat on Lacassine NWR. Additional projects are submitted yearly to the Conservation Committee. Informational requests on MARSH should be referred to Robbie Howard, Regional Biologist, in Monroe, LA (318/387-8683), Chad Courville, Project Biologist, in Lafayette, LA (337/291-3068), or Hugh Bateman, Manager of Conservation Programs, Ferriday, LA (318/757-9377).

Louisiana Waterfowl Project/North

In North LA, over 4,018 acres of private lands were enrolled under multi-year management agreements for protection, restoration, or enhancement of hydrology on forested wetlands, moist soil sites, or croplands. Of these acres, approximately one-half were non-agricultural sites, and were associated with forested wetlands and moist soil habitats. Three Moist Soil Workshops were held in the Mississippi (Winnsboro) and Red River Deltas (Shreveport & Natchitoches) with over 150 WRP, CRP, and LWP cooperators attending. Technical assistance was provided on over 50,000 acres of private lands during FY02. Waterfowl Project inquiries should be forwarded to Project Biologist, Nick Smith, or Regional Biologist, Robbie Howard, in Monroe, LA (318/387-8683).

Louisiana Waterfowl Project/South

This program, which was initiated in September 1999, targets the south LA rice-growing region. 6,339 acres of habitat were developed and made available to waterfowl in South Louisiana this year. In addition, nearly 30,000 acres of technical assistance was provided to landowners seeking advice on improving the waterfowl habitat value of their property. NAWCA Grant funding will initiate the terracing of degraded marshes in the Sweet Lake and Broussard Lake areas of Cameron Parish in FY02. Furthermore, an additional NAWCA Grant application has been approved by the NAWCA Council for levee and water control structure improvements at several coastal locations in Cameron and Vermillion parishes. Collectively, completion of the NAWCA Grants should improve habitat conditions and marsh stability on approximately 25,677 acres of coastal wetlands. Waterfowl project inquiries should be forwarded to Project Biologist, Chad Courville, in Lafayette, LA (337/291-3068).

LA Wetland Reserve Program

Each year, this large-scale program presents a new and different challenge to the Natural Resource Conservation Service and DU biologists and engineers involved in the restoration of bottomland hardwood ecosystems. This year an unusually dry October/November period threatened bottomland hardwood reforestation activities, but allowed hydrology restoration activities to continue. These conditions reversed themselves in early December, with rainfall amounts of 10–16 inches commonly occurring throughout the delta. 6,493 acres of bottomland hardwood forests were restored, and over 1,800 acres of functional wetlands were added to the delta landscape. For the second year in a row, a substantial amount of acres in marginal agriculture land in Louisiana was restored to wetlands and wildlife habitat through the NRCS/DU partnership. Regional Biologist, Josh McDaniel, and Regional Engineer, Quin Durbin P.E., coordinate DU efforts on WRP sites in Louisiana. They can be contacted in Monroe, LA (318/387-8683).

Louisiana Conservation Easements

Louisiana obtained its first conservation easement in 2000. Additional easements of 3,000 and 1,802 acres were respectfully secured in 2001 and 2002. Collectively, the easements protect nearly 15,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests and associated wetlands in the delta parishes of Tensas, Franklin, Concordia, Catahoula, LaSalle, and Grant. Two additional easements totaling over 5,000 acres were offered to DU in FY 02. These easements offer key linkages to state, federal, and privately owned properties supporting habitat critical to the well being of black bear, and neotropical migrants, as well as resident and migrant waterfowl populations.

Other conservation easement opportunities throughout the state are being brought to DU's attention, many of which support wetlands critical to continental waterfowl populations. Contacts concerning the Conservation Easement Program should be forwarded to Jimmy Emfinger, Manager of Land Protection, at the Southern Regional office in Jackson, MS (601/206/5434).

WETLAND ACRES PROTECTED, ENHANCED, OR RESTORED IN FY02

MARSH - 2,687 acres

LWP/North - 4,018 acres

LWP/South - 6,339 acres

LA WRP - 8,338 acres

Easements - 1,802 acres

NAWCA - 234 acres (Boeuf River WMA)

Total = 23,418 acres

RESOLUTION

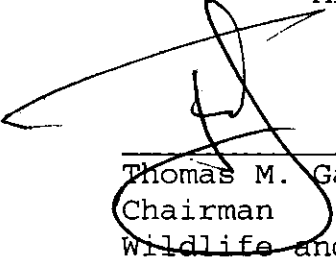
ADDING CERTAIN STATE OWNED PROPERTY TO THE DEWEY WILLS
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
June 6, 2002

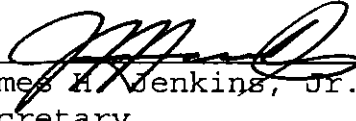
- WHEREAS, there are presently 1595.72 acres of land, more or less, which are a part of an island located in Larto Lake, in Catahoula Parish, which are presently vacant state land and dried lake bed, all being owned by the state of Louisiana, which such property is more specifically described on the attached plat.
- WHEREAS, this property contains valuable forested wetlands, the protection and proper management of which is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.
- WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, pursuant to Act 86 of the Regular Session of 2001, sponsored by Senator Joe McPherson and Senator Noble Ellington, and Act 32 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session, sponsored by Senator Joe McPherson, Senator Noble Ellington, and Representative Tommy Wright, directed that this property be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Furthermore, pursuant to Act 86 of the Regular Session of 2001 no timber cutting is allowed on 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.
- WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands that they be established as a wildlife management area and included in the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby select, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, the state owned land described above, comprised of 1595.72 acres, more or less, to be established as a Wildlife Management Area.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be added to the existing Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area and subject to the rules and regulations promulgated for the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area, and that this property, pursuant to such rules and regulations, shall be dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall be no timber cutting allowed on the 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and

the 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take whatever actions are necessary in furtherance of establishing this property as a Wildlife Management Area and adding it to the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area.

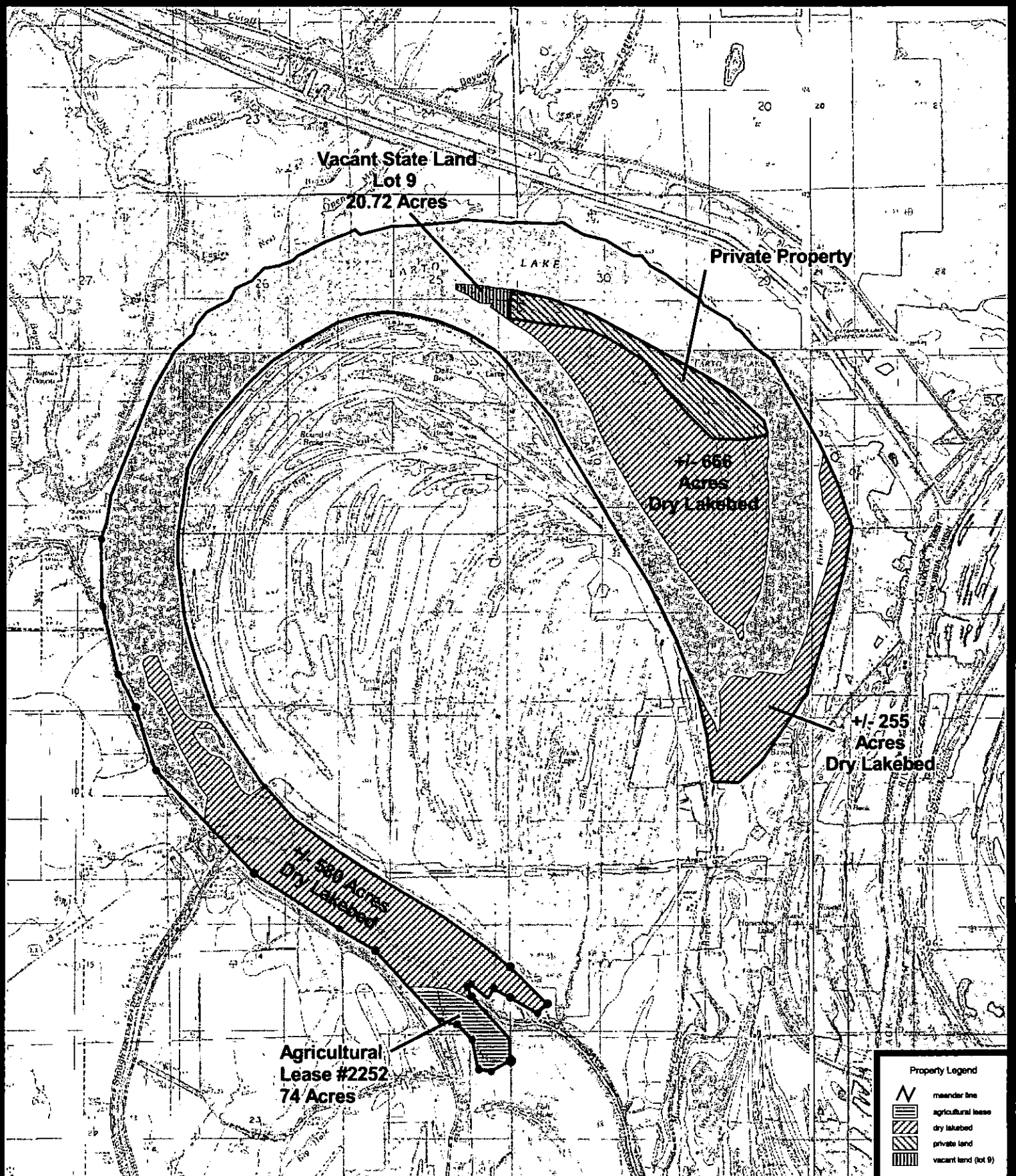


Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Larto Lake



RESOLUTION

ADDING CERTAIN STATE OWNED PROPERTY TO THE DEWEY WILLS
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
June 6, 2002

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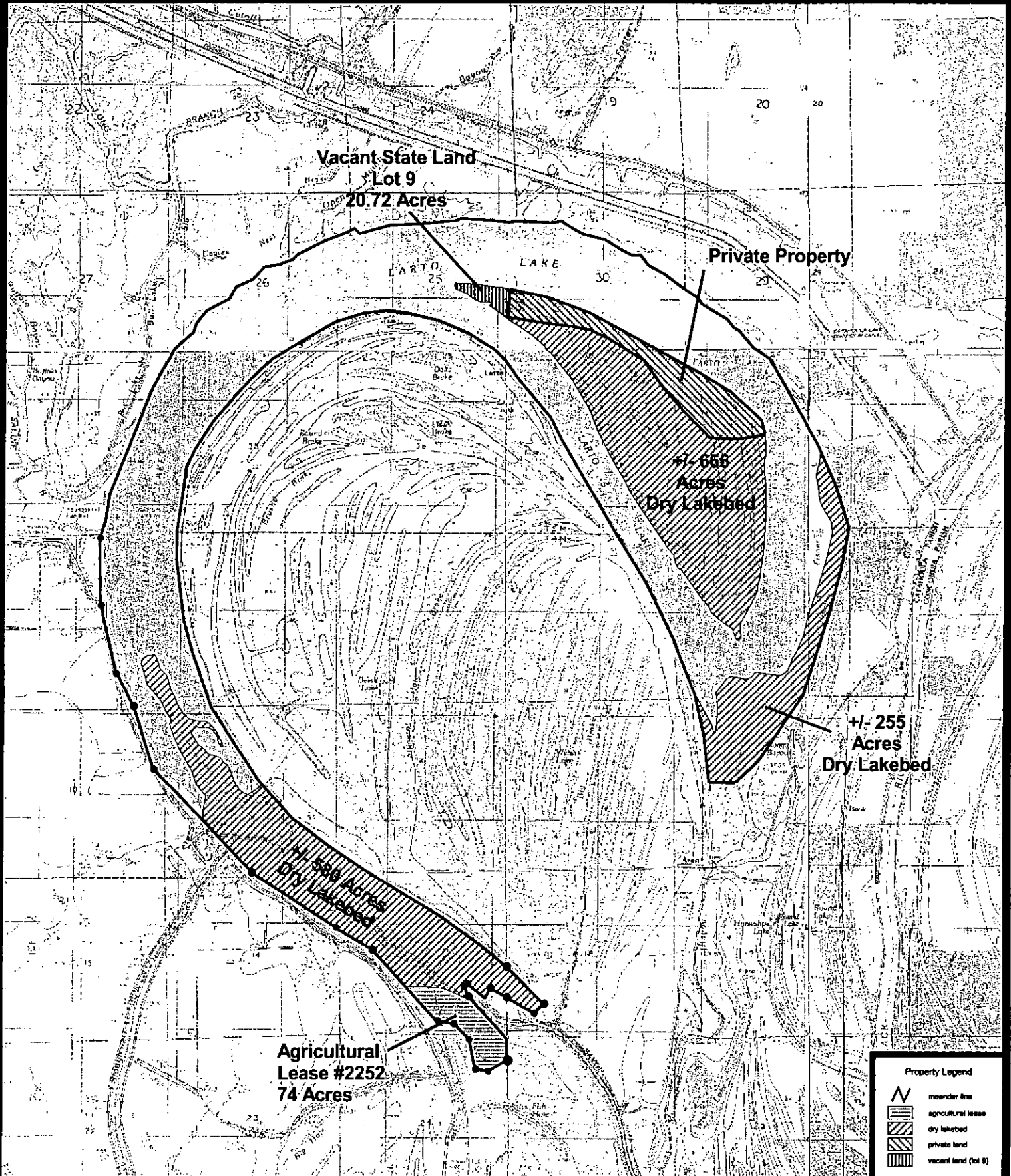
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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Larto Lake



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall be no timber cutting allowed on the 20.72 acres of vacant state land, known as Lot 9, located on the western edge of Larto Island; and the 666 acres of dry lakebed, located in the

southern portion of Larto Island; both such properties as identified on the attached plat.

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

WHEREAS, the nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), a semi-aquatic rodent, native to South America, was placed in captivity in Louisiana during the late 1930's and was released or escaped into the state's coastal wetlands in the late 1930's, and

WHEREAS, nutria rapidly spread across south Louisiana, first appearing in the fur harvest in 1943 and then by the late 1950's causing serious damage to rice and sugar cane, and

WHEREAS, a demand for nutria fur developed in Germany and by 1962 the annual harvest was over one million. The harvest averaged 1.3 million pelts from 1962 through 1981. During this time the nutria was the backbone of the Louisiana fur industry peaking in value at \$25 million dollars during the late 1970's with nutria accounting for over \$15 million, and

WHEREAS, the demand for wild fur, including nutria, began declining as a result of changes in international markets. This reduction resulted in lower prices offered to trappers and resulted in a lower number of licensed trappers and effort. Thus, the harvest of nutria continued to drop during the late 1980's and through the 1990's, and

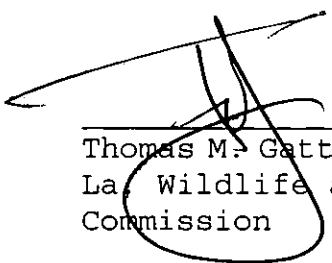
WHEREAS, in 1988 coastal land managers and department officials began observing open areas where nutria had overgrazed wetland plants; and based on aerial surveys during the 1990's, the number of acres impacted increased from 50,000 to 100,000, and

WHEREAS, in April 2002 the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force approved a Coastwide Nutria Control Program with \$2.2 million available annually for five years, and


WHEREAS, this Nutria Control Program is designed to encourage the harvest of 400,000 nutria annually by providing economic incentive through payments of \$4 per nutria tail to participants during the trapping season, and

WHEREAS, this program should significantly increase the number of trappers and effort and the number of nutria harvested and should reduce the total acres of damaged wetlands, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will implement, administer, and monitor the results of this program. The attached rules establish and regulate the Coastwide Nutria Control Program and are adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as a Notice of Intent.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertise its intent to establish a coastwide nutria control program.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§123. Coastwide Nutria Control Program

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby establish regulations governing participation in the coastwide nutria control program. The administrative responsibility for this program shall rest with the Department Secretary; the Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife; and the Fur and Refuge Division.

1. The coastwide nutria control program objective is to provide economic incentive, by payment of \$4 per nutria tail to participants, to encourage the harvest of up to 400,000 nutria annually from coastal Louisiana. For the purpose of this program, coastal Louisiana is bounded on the north by Interstate 10 from the Louisiana-Texas line to Baton Rouge, Interstate 12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell, and Interstate 10 to the Louisiana-Mississippi line.

2. Participant Application Process

a. Participants must acquire a valid Louisiana

trapping license.

b. Participants must submit a completed nutria control program participant application to the department or its contractor.

c. To be considered complete, the application must contain the following information: name, address, telephone number, social security number, and trapping license number of applicant; tax receipt and a description of property to be trapped/hunted (acres, parish, township, range, section); name, address, and telephone number of landowner (private or public); signature of participant; and signature of landowner or designated representative indicating permission to hunt or trap nutria on the described property.

d. For applications determined to be complete and valid, the participant will be notified by mail that his/her registration is finalized and a nutria control program registration number will be issued.

e. The participant must indicate if an assistant will be delivering tails on his behalf to a collection center and the participant must provide the name of the assistant(s) on the application.

f. Applications submitted to the department or its contractor by October 1 shall be processed by the opening of trapping season. Applications submitted to the department or its

contractor after October 1 shall be processed in the order received.

g. Applications listing only waterbodies, without signature of an adjacent landowner or designated representative, shall be considered incomplete.

h. Applications determined to be incomplete or invalid will be returned to the applicant with an explanation as to why registration could not be finalized.

3. Harvest of Nutria

a. Participants must possess a valid trapping license and a nutria control program registration number.

b. Only nutria harvested during the open trapping season, from coastal Louisiana and taken from property permitted can be included in this program.

c. Nutria may be taken by any legal method except that if taken with a shotgun, steel shot must be used.

4. Collection of Nutria Tails for Payment

a. Collection stations will be established across coastal Louisiana by the department or its contractor.

b. Evidence of nutria harvested shall be in the form of delivering severed nutria tails to a collection station during a designated period. Collections will begin on or about November 20th. Specific dates and times of collections will be established and advertised for each station.

c. Participant or a designated assistant must present the nutria control registration number and proper identification to the department contractor.

d. Participant or designated assistant shall present to the department contractor only fresh or well-preserved (iced, frozen, salted) nutria tails in a manner that allows counting of individual tails (e.g., tails cannot be frozen together in a block). Only whole tails, greater than 7 inches in length will be accepted.

e. Participant shall declare parish, section, township, and range in coastal Louisiana where animals were taken and indicate method of take and carcass use. Tails from animals taken from outside of the participants permitted property shall not qualify for payment in this program.

f. Participant shall sign the receipt/voucher provided by the department contractor to acknowledge number of tails presented and accuracy of information provided.

5. Violation of any part of these regulations is a class 2 violation and conviction may result in disqualification from the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is

authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Brandt Savoie, Fur & Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to , , 2002.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JUNE 6, 2002

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WHEREAS, the demand for wild fur, including nutria, began declining as a result of changes in international markets. This reduction resulted in lower prices offered to trappers and resulted in a lower number of licensed trappers and effort. Thus, the harvest of nutria continued to drop during the late 1980's and through the 1990's, and

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2002						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

JULY-02	RULE - 2002-03 Hunting Season Dates & Bag Limits
	RULE - General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations
SEPT-02	RULE - Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Netting Prohibition
	RULE - Alligator Regulations
	RULE - Oyster Lease Moratorium
OCT-02	RULE - Deer and Elk Importation
	RULE - Disposal of Illegal Live Deer and Elk

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	PERCENT DOLLARS PAID	PERCENT CASES PAID
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	\$21,039.00	(\$9,778.00)	29	\$4,855.00	\$2,545.00		
Aug., 1993	53	\$44,922.00	(\$1,137.00)	41	\$7,950.00	\$3,603.00		
Sept., 1993	42	\$137,635.00	(\$17,938.00)	35	\$6,783.00	\$3,048.00		
Oct., 1993	49	\$21,471.00	(\$11,282.00)	40	\$3,285.00	\$1,519.00		
Nov., 1993	57	\$31,207.00	(\$13,260.00)	32	\$3,053.00	\$2,845.00		
Dec., 1993	53	\$13,777.00		27	\$6,507.00	\$6,713.00		
Jan., 1994	38	\$18,918.00		32	\$4,423.00	\$2,831.00		
Feb., 1994	68	\$38,131.00	(\$8,238.00)	46	\$9,124.00	\$5,993.00		
Mar., 1994	38	\$22,739.00	(\$2,482.00)	51	\$10,854.00	\$6,796.00		
April, 1994	14	\$44,732.00	(\$1,404.00)	27	\$7,307.00	\$4,632.00		
May, 1994	10	\$4,504.00	(\$165.00)	7	\$5,447.00	\$3,808.00		
June, 1994	29	\$26,167.00	(\$2,986.00)	12	\$1,886.00	\$1,214.00		
Total FY 1994	476	\$425,242.00	(\$68,670.00)	379	\$71,474.00	\$45,547.00	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	\$2,127.00	(\$335.00)	23	\$2,101.00	\$1,437.00		
Aug., 1994	41	\$96,403.00	(\$3,035.00)	20	\$1,010.00	\$605.00		
Sept., 1994	34	\$14,614.00	(\$14,002.00)	26	\$2,596.00	\$2,342.00		
Oct., 1994	94	\$17,426.00	(\$8,677.00)	38	\$2,922.00	\$3,179.00		
Nov., 1994	43	\$103,592.00		45	\$3,992.00	\$2,803.00		
Dec., 1994	68	\$31,400.00		35	\$4,315.00	\$2,329.00		
Jan., 1995	55	\$27,601.00		52	\$7,493.00	\$4,921.00		
Feb., 1995	70	\$61,119.00		41	\$6,472.00	\$3,973.00		
Mar., 1995	31	\$25,072.00		44	\$8,315.00	\$4,737.00		
Apr., 1995	13	\$15,353.00		16	\$3,565.00	\$1,538.00		
May., 1995	23	\$11,632.00		16	\$4,315.00	\$654.00		
June 1995	45	\$31,008.00		18	\$2,630.00	\$1,025.00		
Total FY 1995	534	\$437,347.00	(\$26,049.00)	374	\$49,726.00	\$29,543.00	18.1%	70.0%
FICAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	\$0.00						
Aug., 1995	46	\$17,425.00		27	\$9,028.00	\$1,729.00		
Sept., 1995	1	\$125.00		21	\$3,093.00	\$2,049.00		
Oct., 1995	122	\$206,244.00		29	\$2,720.00	\$1,161.00		
Nov., 1995	55	\$23,124.00		62	\$10,151.00	\$6,383.00		
Dec., 1995	50	\$18,607.26		32	\$4,780.66	\$2,802.76		
Jan., 1996	49	\$13,814.88	(\$15,296.45)	36	\$5,296.51	\$3,472.89		
Feb., 1996	50	\$14,716.97		38	\$5,777.53	\$3,416.91		
Mar., 1996	33	\$24,936.91		36	\$6,035.12	\$3,421.75		
Apr., 1996	30	\$11,006.66		36	\$7,173.12	\$2,711.54		
May., 1996	23	\$7,989.34		24	\$3,941.69	\$2,020.29		
June 1996	50	\$22,151.31		16	\$2,790.02	\$1,182.23		
Total FY 1996	509	\$360,141.33	(\$15,296.45)	357	\$60,786.65	\$30,350.37	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	\$71,894.13		32	\$5,249.93	\$2,947.96		
Aug., 1996	32	\$5,362.64		32	\$6,254.59	\$3,783.69		
Sept., 1996	41	\$7,210.00		29	\$2,259.96	\$1,326.58		
Oct., 1996	29	\$11,092.53		25	\$3,697.89	\$2,261.98		
Nov., 1996	20	\$10,009.10		22	\$1,624.63	\$698.02		
Dec., 1996	13	\$238,466.04		22	\$5,877.18	\$2,121.53		
Jan., 1997	27	\$11,755.22		17	\$4,393.30	\$2,377.09		
Feb., 1997	47	\$18,520.87		42	\$8,579.84	\$5,552.63		
Mar., 1997	26	\$13,434.02		27	\$4,999.59	\$2,757.67		
Apr., 1997	10	\$2,908.87		15	\$2,322.88	\$1,298.66		
May., 1997	20	\$11,682.70		15	\$5,198.91	\$1,399.21		
June 1997	5	\$8,036.58		10	\$2,335.24	\$765.34		
Total FY 1997	310	\$410,372.70	\$0.00	288	\$52,793.94	\$27,290.36	19.5%	92.9%
FICAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	\$2,811.71		8	\$1,584.67	\$823.11		
Aug., 1997	14	\$8,741.30		8	\$1,496.49	\$779.14		
Sept., 1997	29	\$19,926.37		12	\$2,051.78	\$1,278.04		
Oct., 1997	12	\$4,716.81		23	\$3,184.83	\$2,063.89		
Nov., 1997	23	\$54,965.34		10	\$2,424.86	\$1,218.28		
Dec., 1997	25	\$36,881.09		15	\$4,376.97	\$2,775.66		
Jan., 1998	42	\$30,025.81		17	\$5,300.40	\$3,533.66		
Feb., 1998	37	\$31,164.95		29	\$22,961.69	\$8,501.18		
Mar., 1998	9	\$13,273.45		32	\$9,406.56	\$4,371.53		

Apr., 1998	10	\$5,628.21		10	\$2,602.62	\$1,279.77		
May., 1998	0	\$225.00		8	\$2,885.02	\$950.46		
June 1998	5	\$2,414.03		6	\$1,041.54	\$98.00		
Total FY 1998	216	\$210,774.07	\$0.00	178	\$59,317.43	\$27,672.72	41.3%	82.4%
FICAL YEAR 1998 - 99								
July, 1998	9	\$1,390.43		8	\$1,964.20	\$716.75		
Aug., 1998	10	\$2,240.70		10	\$1,048.28	\$372.47		
Sept., 1998	8	\$2,768.96		11	\$2,000.36	\$1,148.23		
Oct., 1998	22	\$28,704.85		14	\$1,860.17	\$807.48		
Nov., 1998	19	\$9,137.79		11	\$1,765.97	\$1,092.43		
Dec., 1998	23	\$11,959.10		27	\$4,441.02	\$2,040.71		
Jan., 1999	41	\$21,179.55		18	\$6,621.63	\$3,838.22		
Feb., 1999	45	\$26,236.24		41	\$12,119.09	\$6,923.61		
Mar., 1999	15	\$7,549.57		33	\$8,281.77	\$4,138.44		
Apr., 1999	9	\$8,013.54		14	\$3,035.82	\$1,388.41		
May., 1999	5	\$5,161.23		5	\$905.50	\$405.00		
June 1999	7	\$3,719.01		13	\$3,011.06	\$533.83		
Total FY 1999	213	\$128,060.97	\$0.00	205	\$47,054.87	\$23,405.58	55.0%	96.2%
FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000								
July, 1999	5	\$1,556.38		9	\$2,287.53	\$1,198.81		
Aug., 1999	10	\$2,510.83		15	\$2,455.38	\$513.73		
Sept., 1999	6	\$2,032.19	\$5,324.80	28	\$3,563.06	\$475.93		
Oct., 1999	11	\$4,452.31	\$567.75	25	\$2,775.48	\$557.41		
Nov., 1999	14	\$8,634.64		26	\$3,250.96	\$1,322.96		
Dec., 1999	24	\$15,891.96		19	\$3,862.76	\$2,126.27		
Jan., 2000	49	\$27,872.14		28	\$7,952.94	\$3,814.02		
Feb., 2000	21	\$11,039.59		30	\$10,159.24	\$6,216.42		
Mar., 2000	19	\$9,873.21		31	\$6,709.07	\$3,555.40		
Apr., 2000	12	\$7,897.70		17	\$2,932.41	\$1,512.54		
May, 2000	7	\$5,039.46	\$293.60	20	\$7,062.23	\$3,164.00		
June, 2000	16	\$14,566.88		18	\$5,766.59	\$1,852.12		
Total FY 2000	194	\$111,367.29	\$6,186.15	266	\$58,777.65	\$26,309.61	76%	137%
FISCAL YEAR 2000-01								
July, 2000	2	\$865.01		14	\$1,948.03	\$154.01		
Aug., 2000	20	\$15,837.60		17	\$3,302.27	\$1,063.92		
Sept., 2000	12	\$3,562.26		23	\$8,718.21	\$1,351.41		
Oct., 2000	18	\$122,696.24		29	\$7,457.98	\$490.16		
Nov. 2000	13	\$15,851.30		22	\$4,038.50	\$309.30		
Dec., 2000	40	\$30,234.92		24	\$7,189.98	\$462.13		
Jan., 2001	28	\$15,923.38		25	\$7,611.66	\$833.60		
Feb., 2001	35	\$20,181.39		30	\$18,568.12	\$1,917.82		
Mar., 2001	8	\$5,956.83		37	\$15,724.02	\$753.86		
Apr., 2001	20	\$24,145.82		22	\$4,856.39	\$225.93		
May 2001	4	\$1,677.36		20	\$3,700.77	\$313.58		
June 2001	3	\$932.20		31	\$8,433.81	\$346.90		
Total FY 2001	203	\$257,864.31	\$0.00	294	\$91,549.74	\$8,222.62	39%	145%
FISCAL YEAR 2001-02								
July, 2001	4	\$4,290.29		25	\$6,328.36	\$293.54		
Aug., 2001	6	\$9,452.69		18	\$2,984.52			
Sept., 2001	0	\$175.00		25	\$4,157.32	\$66.29		
Oct., 2001	15	\$6,439.06		18	\$3,174.66	\$67.32		
Nov., 2001	15	\$5,913.63		24	\$3,932.41	\$194.66		
Dec., 2001	36	\$21,868.88		20	\$5,384.19	\$502.17		
Jan., 2002	56	\$27,650.44		38	\$11,100.99	\$1,008.09		
Feb., 2002	27	\$14,211.31	\$620.55	37	\$20,017.87	\$861.63		
Mar., 2002	8	\$6,765.68		36	\$10,061.89	\$419.16		
Apr., 2002	20	\$11,296.19		19	\$2,196.02	\$49.33		
May, 2002	3	\$30,852.57	\$11,887.80	27	\$8,265.67	\$538.72		
June, 2002								
Total FY 2002	190	\$138,915.74	\$12,508.35	287	\$77,603.90	\$4,000.91	59%	151%

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
CURRENT MONTH
05/01/2002 TO 05/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	3	\$30,002.57
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	33	\$850.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	3	\$30,852.57
PAYMENTS	19	\$7,547.27-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	2	\$235.00-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	4	\$193.40-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	2	\$115.00-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	7	\$175.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	8	\$538.72-
OVERPAYMENTS	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	0	\$0.00
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	2	\$11,887.80-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	2	\$5,452.60
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	2	\$1,049.08-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

FOOTNOTE:		
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/2001 TO 05/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	190	\$136,865.74
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	81	\$2,050.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	190	\$138,915.74
PAYMENTS	147	\$55,557.41-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	11	\$3,021.81-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	20	\$3,845.04-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	14	\$14,429.64-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	41	\$1,050.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	82	\$4,000.91-
OVERPAYMENTS	17	\$4.29
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	4	\$344.94
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	3	\$12,508.35-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	2	\$5,452.60
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$209.14-
WRITE-OFFS	6	\$38,505.31-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	1	\$395.71-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	1	\$12.00-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	19	\$16,395.05-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	1	\$524.54-

FOOTNOTE:		
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	1	\$132.50

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
INCEPTION TO DATE
05/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	4,388	\$3,094,479.96
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	338	\$8,900.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	138	\$58,209.82
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	4,388	\$2,891,724.33
PAYMENTS	2,972	\$623,577.51-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	26	\$4,718.51-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	68	\$19,452.55-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	35	\$22,574.24-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	164	\$4,275.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2,080	\$256,305.96-
OVERPAYMENTS	115	\$91.94
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	57	\$11,620.13
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	17	\$44,255.65-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	5	\$6,780.54
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	8	\$45,896.70
RETURNED CHECKS	1	\$61.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	3	\$55.00
CREDITS	13	\$10.22-
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	21	\$6,881.15
CREDITS	63	\$36,913.30-
WRITE-OFFS	982	\$1,064,754.61-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	7	\$1,794.95-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	25	\$12,400.80-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	82	\$165,664.26-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	2	\$559.32-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	1	\$524.54-
=====		
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING	301	\$705,330.12

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	38	\$106,941.70 *
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AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00
1 - 30 DAYS	1	\$236.60
31 - 60 DAYS	3	\$485.05
61 - 90 DAYS	3	\$1,884.00
91 - 120 DAYS	0	\$0.00
121 - 150 DAYS	6	\$924.79
151 - 180 DAYS	2	\$682.20
181 - 365 DAYS	65	\$73,000.46
OVER ONE YEAR	129	\$104,189.75
OVER TWO YEARS	151	\$77,322.31
OVER THREE YEARS	734	\$524,239.59

=====

** TOTAL AGING 1,094 \$782,964.75

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	0	\$0.00
CURRENT	3	\$30,002.57
1 - 30 DAYS	13	\$6,314.84
31 - 90 DAYS	29	\$19,367.78
91 - 180 DAYS	28	\$16,670.67
181 - 365 DAYS	11	\$18,455.22
OVER ONE YEAR	118	\$121,279.66

COLLECTIONS WITH PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FIRM:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	98	\$419,023.38

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	1	\$74,216.00

=====

** TOTAL AGING 301 \$705,330.12

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
CURRENT MONTH
05/01/2002-05/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	1,225	\$62,500.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	484	\$12,100.00
CREDITS	4	\$100.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$74,500.00

=====

PAID IN FULL	739	\$41,740.00-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	11	\$440.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	0	\$0.00
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	0	\$0.00
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	2	\$100.00
REFUNDS	4	\$300.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	4	\$200.00
CREDITS	1	\$50.00-
VOIDS	42	\$2,150.00-
NOT GUILTY	15	\$800.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	3	\$150.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	1	\$50.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	1	\$50.00-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/2001-05/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	7,227	\$368,660.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	3,609	\$90,225.00
CREDITS	58	\$1,976.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
=====		
TOTAL DUE		\$456,909.00

=====

PAID IN FULL	5,882	\$339,972.26-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	123	\$5,322.50-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	9	\$440.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	27	\$220.00-
WRITE-OFFS	5	\$195.00-
OVERPAYMENTS	7	\$162.79
REFUNDS	54	\$3,025.00
RETURNED CHECKS	4	\$125.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	4	\$40.00
CREDITS	1	\$0.85-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	29	\$1,850.00
CREDITS	11	\$750.00-
VOIDS	301	\$15,100.00-
NOT GUILTY	160	\$8,200.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	88	\$4,450.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	25	\$1,250.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	25	\$1,250.00-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
INCEPTION TO DATE
05/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	97,281	\$4,946,387.07
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	24,631	\$615,937.80
CREDITS	59	\$9,341.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$5,552,983.87

=====

PAID IN FULL	57,009	\$3,001,951.49-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	1,468	\$66,539.25-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	14	\$690.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	32	\$345.00-
WRITE-OFFS	5	\$195.00-
OVERPAYMENTS	174	\$4,080.78
REFUNDS	257	\$12,507.81
RETURNED CHECKS	69	\$3,550.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	68	\$1,070.00
CREDITS	168	\$141.88-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	194	\$11,400.00
CREDITS	32	\$1,950.00-
VOIDS	5,132	\$258,000.00-
NOT GUILTY	1,170	\$59,450.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	169	\$8,600.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	25	\$1,250.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	156	\$7,850.00-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$2,178,629.84

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM CITATION DATE

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CURRENT	679	\$34,500.00
1 - 30 DAYS	591	\$30,550.00
31 - 90 DAYS	707	\$36,700.00
91 - 180 DAYS	396	\$25,985.00
181 - 365 DAYS	1,227	\$92,280.00
OVER ONE YEAR	29,901	\$1,943,699.84

COLLECTIONS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	199	\$14,965.00

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	0	\$0.00

=====

** TOTAL AGING	33,700	\$2,178,679.84
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AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM HEARING DATE

PREHEARING	2,052	\$105,685.00
0 - 90 DAYS	1,981	\$104,800.00
91 - 180 DAYS	240	\$17,150.00
181 - 270 DAYS	853	\$65,230.00
271 - 365 DAYS	769	\$57,730.50
OVER ONE YEAR	27,805	\$1,828,084.34

=====

** TOTAL AGING	33,700	\$2,178,679.84
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Dove Hunting Overview 1960s - 2001

Hunter and Harvest Characteristics

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has monitored the number of dove hunters and their harvest since the late 1960's. The number of active dove hunters peaked in the early 1980s with dove hunter numbers today about 20% below that of the late 1960s and greater than 50% below the peak numbers (Figure 1). The peak coincided with higher license sales as well as a slightly higher percent of licensees who also harvested at least one dove (Figure 2). The proportion of licensees who harvested a dove during the late 1960s and 1970s and during the 1990s are virtually unchanged.

Louisiana Dove Hunters

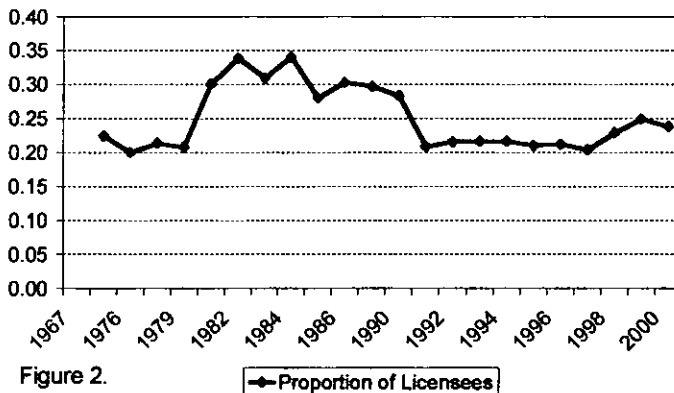


Figure 2.

successful dove hunter reported post-1990 ranged from 3.6 to 4.4 days and averaged 3.9 days. During the earlier years these values generally were above 5.5 days (mean: 5.9 days). Pre-1982 mean harvest per effort ranged from 3.7 to 4.1 doves and averaged 4.0 doves. During 7 of the last 10 years, the mean harvest per effort was 4.8 doves or higher (mean: 4.9 doves). The overall seasonal harvest illustrates a declining trend because the efforts decreased proportionately greater than the harvest per effort increased.

Dove Harvest and Hunter Numbers

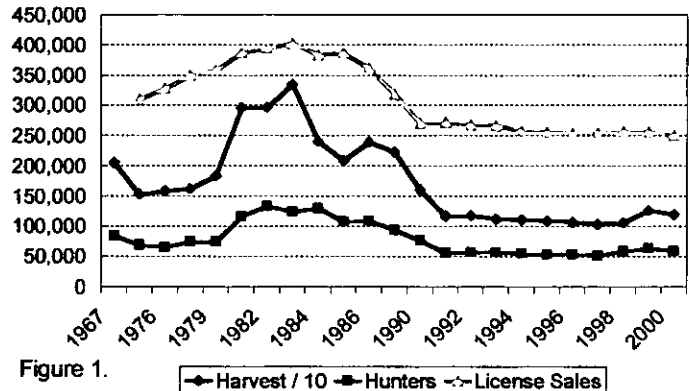


Figure 1.

During this period, a several significant changes relative to the season length and shooting hours were made, and sometimes reversed. Nevertheless, hunting and harvest characteristics remained relatively unchanged in terms of actual numbers (Figure 3). However, as a percent, some of the changes that occurred approach 50 percent.

Comparing the pre-1982 hunter harvest and efforts with post-1990 suggests that dove hunters are hunting less days today than historically, but their harvest per hunt is higher. The mean number of days hunted per

Dove Hunt Characteristics

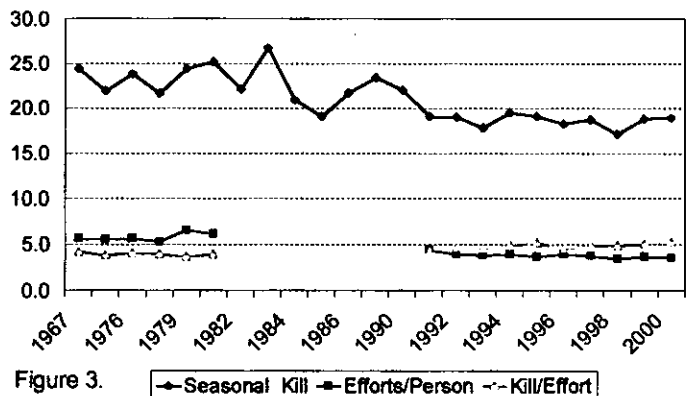


Figure 3.

Season Length and Bag Limit Characteristics

Relative to season lengths and shooting hours, the more liberal options were generally chosen for most years (dating back to the early 1900s) (Table 1). Since 1986, the compromise shooting hours (noon to sunset on each split's opening weekend and all day thereafter) have been selected. The season length (and appropriate bag limit) has varied from 70 days to 60 days since 1991.

Table 1. Louisiana deviations from the most liberal federal framework for dove season length and shooting hours.	
Year	Deviation
1983	Compromise shooting hours
1984	Noon to sunset shooting hours 60-day/15-bird bag limit
1985	Noon to sunset shooting hours
1986 thru 1990	Compromise shooting hours
1991	Compromise shooting hours 60-day/15-bird bag limit
1992 and 1993	Compromise shooting hours
1994	Compromise shooting hours 60-day/15-bird bag limit
1995	Compromise shooting hours
1996	Compromise shooting hours 60-day/15-bird bag limit
1997	Compromise shooting hours
1998	Compromise shooting hours 60-day/15-bird bag limit
1999	Compromise shooting hours
2000 and 2001	Compromise shooting hours 60-day/15-bird bag limit

The option to zone the state to protect nesting doves was provided and implemented in 1973. Zones were used for the dove season for 13 years (until the 1986-87 season). The initial zone line in Louisiana was U.S. Highway 190. In 1976 the zone line was changed to I-10 from the Texas state line to Baton Rouge, I-12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell, and I-10 from Slidell to the Mississippi state line. When a zone is established in Louisiana, the earliest opening date for the south zone is 20 September. The second Saturday of October was usually used for the opening date of the south zone. In Louisiana, 3 splits were established for the north zone and 2 splits in the south zone. A 70-day/12-bird bag was used during every year of the zone usage except for 1984 when the 60-day/15-bird option was selected.

Beginning in 1987, the use of zoning for doves in Louisiana was discontinued (but the federal framework option for zoning still remained). This approach was taken because dove hunters were disgruntled with the zone line when doves, as was often the case, were present in significant numbers in the south zone during the opening weekend of the north zone. A 70-day/12-bird bag was used every year from 1987 – 1991. A 60-day/15-bird bag was chosen in 1991. The 70-day/12-bird bag framework was chosen in 1992 and 1993. A “gentlemen’s” agreement was initiated in 1994 with the 60-day/15-bird bag and 70-day/12 bird bag frameworks

alternating. This process was continued until 2001 when the 60-day/15-bird bag framework was adopted for the second year in a row.

Preference Surveys

Two surveys have been conducted by the Department to determine dove hunter preferences concerning the season length/bag limit question. As part of the *Louisiana Big and Small Game Harvest Survey for 1990-91*, a specific question relative to season length was asked. Sixty-eight (68) percent of the dove hunters responded that they preferred the 70-day/12-bird bag framework (Appendix 1). Over 1,000 dove hunters responded to this question. In 1993, the Wildlife Division was directed to sample dove hunter attitudes again relative to the season length/bag limit. The question was not incorporated into the annual harvest survey because the request came after the survey was mailed. Instead, a special survey was sent to all persons (over 1,000) who reported dove hunting on the *Louisiana Big and Small Game Harvest Survey for 1992-93*. Slightly more than half (over 500) dove hunters responded to the special dove survey. Fifty-six (56) percent of the respondents preferred the 70-day/12-bird bag limit (Appendix 2). The margin of error for this survey at the statewide level was about ± 3 percent. The alternating length/bag approach was adopted the year following this survey until the 2001 season.

2002-03 Season Options and Recommendations (Assuming no changes in Federal frameworks)

Statewide 70-day/12-bird bag

September	7 – 15	9 Days
October	12 –	44 Days
November	24	
December	21 –	17 Days
January	6	

Statewide 60-day/15-bird bag

September	7 – 15	9 Days
October	12 –	37 Days
November	17	
December	21 –	14 Days
January	3	

North Zone: 70-day/12 bird bag

September	7 – 15	9 Days
October	12 –	44 Days
November	24	
December	21 –	17 Days
January	6	

North Zone: 60-day/15-bird bag

September	7 – 15	9 Days
October	12 –	37 Days
November	17	
December	21 –	14 Days
January	3	

South Zone: 70-day/12 bird bag

October	12 –	44 Days
November	24	
December	14 –	26 Days
January	8	

South Zone: 60-day/15-bird bag

October	12 –	37 Days
November	17	
December	21 –	16 Days
January	5	

Appendix 1. Season length question results from the *Louisiana Big and Small Game Harvest Survey for 1990-91*.

Louisiana Big and Small Game Harvest Survey for 1990-91

Prepared by*

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

September 1991

*Assistance with the survey design and calculations was provided by the Department of Experimental Statistics, Louisiana State University

hunters while fee leased lands received the highest majority use (36%). Public lands (collectively) were hunted on at least once and the majority of the time by 43% and 12% of the hunters, respectively.

The second question dealt with the dove season length/bag preference (Appendix 1, Question 9). A season with 70 days of hunting and a 12-bird daily bag was preferred by 68% of all dove hunters (Figure 14). This preference was consistent among all dove hunters when grouped by kill per period (in increments of 10 with the highest increment being 51+) (Figure 15). This suggests that the casual as well as the serious dove hunter prefer the 70-day season and a 12-bird daily bag.

Literature Cited

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- Fillion, F. L. 1980. Human surveys in wildlife management. Pages 441-453 in S. D. Shemnitz, ed. Wildlife Management Techniques Manual. 4th Ed. The Wildlife Society. Washington, D.C.
- Hayne, D. W. 1964. Investigations of mail survey reporting by waterfowl hunters. Unpubl. report to U. S. Fish and Wildl. Patuxent Wildl. Res. Center, Laurel Maryland. 24pp.
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Figure 14. Dove season length/bag preference for all reporting dove hunters.

Dove Season Preference Survey 1991

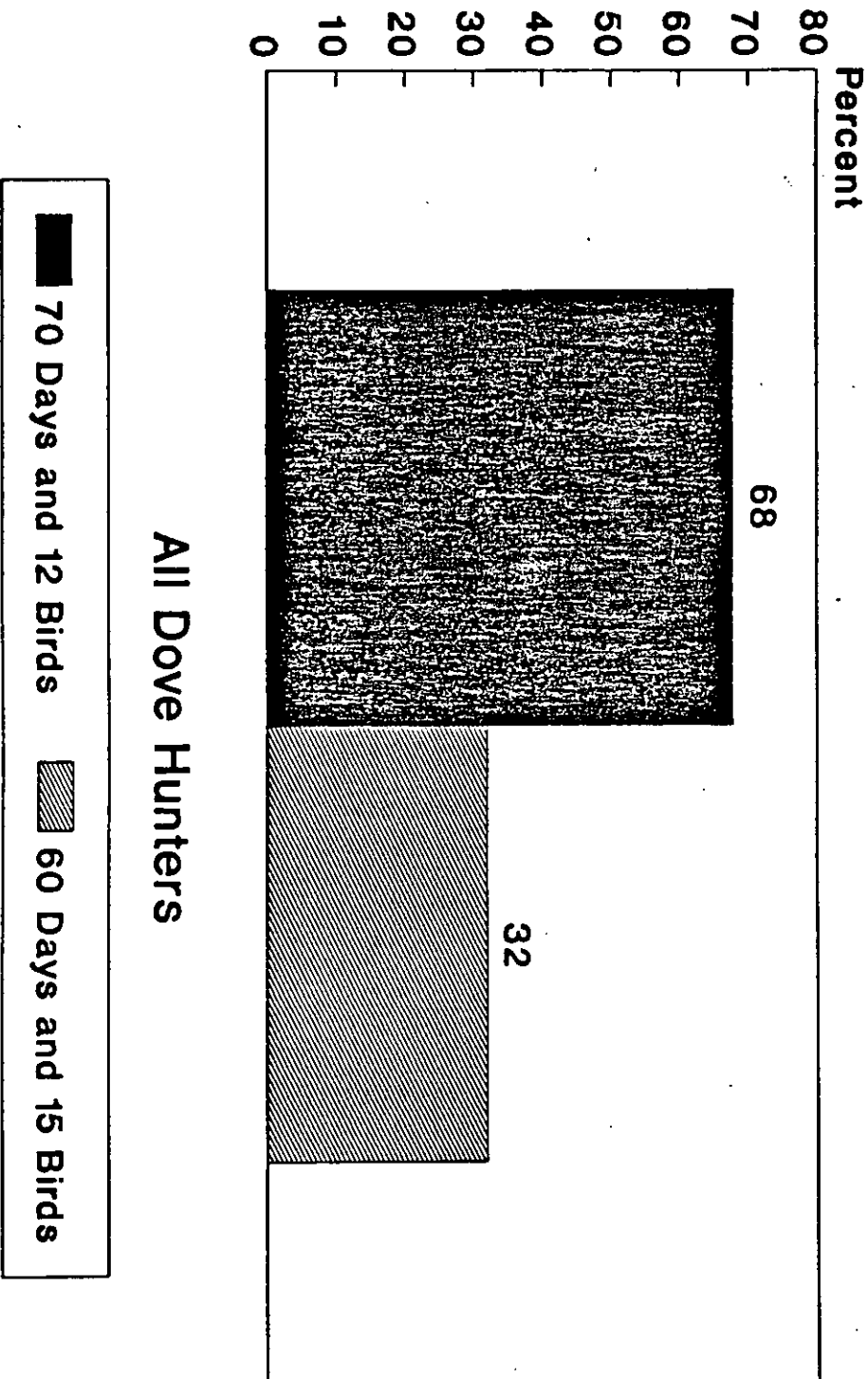
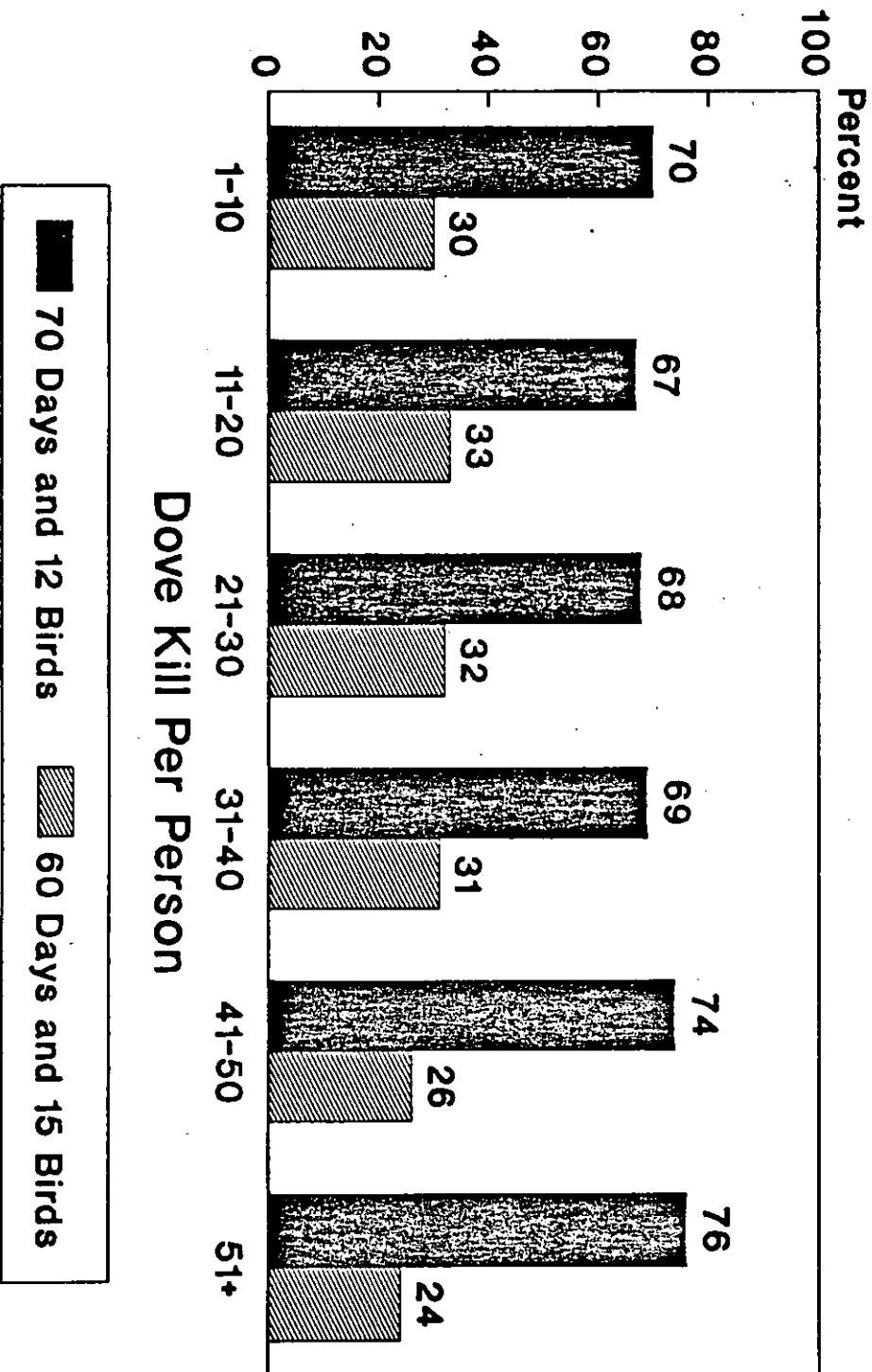


Figure 15. Dove season length/bag preference for dove hunters by kill.

Dove Season Preference Survey 1991



Appendix 2. *Dove Hunter Opinion Survey, June 1993.*

DOVE HUNTER OPINION SURVEY

June 1993

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Abstract: A mourning dove hunter preference survey was conducted May-June 1993. The 70-day/12-bird bag option was preferred by 56.5% of the dove hunters. Similarly, 54.4% of the hunters favored a 70-day/12-bird bag option that allocated only the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (Labor Day) to the September segment and 6 days added to later segments. All day hunting for a large proportion of the season was supported by 65.5% of the respondents. Dove hunters reside predominantly in the southern portion of the state (74.8%) and regional differences in preferences were evident.

Background:

A mourning dove season in Louisiana has been set each year since 1918 within the framework (season length, bag limit, date restrictions) provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The framework is developed using biological data and is sufficiently restrictive to prevent hunting from adversely impacting the dove populations. Changes to the framework have been instituted over the years in response to changes in population indices or as new biological data suggest the need. For example, the framework for the season length for dove hunting in Louisiana has varied from a high of 107 days to a low of 30 days while daily bag has varied from 25 to 8 birds (Appendix 1).

The selection of dove regulations within established frameworks by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is not a biological issue, but rather one of people management. Dove seasons in Louisiana have generally incorporated the maximum number of days allowed for hunting and, until the mid-1980's, the full shooting hour regulation (Appendix 2). Changes in the season format (the inclusion of split segments within a season rather than a single continuous season) reflect an effort to provide better hunting opportunities. During the spring of 1993, the preferences of dove hunters on season length/bag, dates and shooting hours were determined by the Department for the Commission to assist them with the establishment of the state's dove regulations.

Methods:

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries conducts a Game Harvest Survey each year after the close of the small game seasons. The Game Harvest Survey is a mail survey. It is a stratified (by parish), random 6% sample of the 267,445 prior year resident basic license holders. This year 4,406 1992-93 licensed hunters returned the questionnaire. A follow up dove questionnaire (Appendix 3) was sent to all persons that indicated on the 1992-93 Game Harvest Survey that they hunted doves (1,038 or 23.6% of all hunter respondents). Dove hunters returned 542 questionnaires for a 52.2% response rate for the survey. These responses were distributed within the two regions in similar proportions as the mailing (Appendix 4). Data are presented on a statewide basis for all respondents as well as by bag. In addition, two regions (northern and southern) were developed along parish lines based upon geographic location (Figure 1) and data are summarized for each region.

Results:

Statewide

On a statewide basis, 56.5% of the dove hunters preferred the 70-day/12-bird bag option rather than the 60-day/15-bird bag (Table 2). This value is statistically higher ($P < 0.05$) than the 43.5% that preferred the 60-day/15-bird bag option. However, these values were much closer than those obtained by the Game Harvest Survey for 1990-91 suggesting a shift in opinion of some dove hunters. Nevertheless, the longer season length is still preferred. In the 1990-91 survey, the 70-day/12-bird bag option was preferred by 68% of the respondents.

When asked which segment of the season to shorten if a 60-day season was selected, 47.4% of the persons selected shortening the September segment, 41.0% selected the December-January segment, and only 11.6% selected the October-November segment. The September and December-January response rates were not significantly different ($P > 0.05$). However, it is interesting to note that 54.4% responded favorably for a 70-day season with the September segment limited to the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (Labor Day) and the remaining days added to the later segments. This favorable response was statistically higher ($P < 0.05$) than that preferring the traditional segments (45.6%).

The responses for the shooting hour were evenly distributed among the choices. The compromise (noon to sunset on opening weekends of each segment and 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset the remainder of the segment) was favored by 29.8%, all-day hunting by 35.7% and 1/2-day hunting by 34.6%. These results illustrate a strong desire by the majority of dove hunters to maintain a large proportion of the season open to all-day hunting. The Department's dove hunter shooting hour preference surveys conducted in 1983 and 1984 provided similar conclusions. In 1984 the current compromise was first suggested. In this survey, 24% of the hunters favored the compromise, 36% all-day hunting and 39% noon to sunset. In 1983, when only all day or afternoon only hunting was offered as choices in the questionnaire, 58% of the hunters favored all-day hunting.

Hunter Bag

The number of doves killed by the hunter did not significantly influence opinion of the hunter (Table 3). The 70-day/12-bird bag option was favored by 57.2% of the persons reporting ≤ 25 doves bagged compared to 55.5% of the hunters that bagged > 25 birds. Similarly, 55.4% of the hunters who bagged ≤ 25 doves favored a 70-day/12-bird bag option with a September segment of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (Labor Day) and the remaining days added to the later segments while 53.0% of the hunters who bagged > 25 doves favored that option. Differences in the responses to a similar season length question in the 1990-91 survey were not detected based on the number of doves a hunter bagged either.

Regional

The responses to this dove questionnaire clearly illustrate that a difference in philosophy concerning dove regulations exists regionally among Louisiana dove hunters (Table 4). The proportions relative to the season length/bag were virtually reversed for the northern and southern regions. The 70-day/12-bird bag option was preferred by 63.3% of the dove hunters in the

southern region. In contrast, only 32.8% of the hunters in the northern region selected this option. Similarly, a 70-day/12-bird bag season with a September segment with only the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (Labor Day) and the remainder of the days added to the later segments was supported by 60.0% of the respondents in the southern region but by only 34.7% in the northern region.

If a 60-day/15-bag is selected, 55.2% of the dove hunters in the northern region preferred to have the reduction occur in the December-January segment and only 25% preferred a reduction in September. In contrast, the majority of the dove hunters in the southern region (53.8%) preferred the reduction to occur during the September segment and 37.0% selected the last segment.

Dove hunters, whether in the northern region or the southern region, supported shooting hours to be all-day for a large proportion of the season. The compromise was selected by 34.7 and 28.3% of the northern and southern region respondents, respectively. All-day hunting was preferred by 38.8% of the dove hunters in the northern region and 34.8% in the southern region.

Distribution of Dove Hunters

The distribution of dove hunters was determined by the address of respondents to the 1992-93 Game Harvest Survey who indicated that they hunted doves. Most of the dove hunters in Louisiana (74.8%) reside in the southern portion of the state. This distribution was determined from the address of the 1,038 respondents to the 1992-93 Game Harvest Survey who indicated that they hunted doves. Analysis of question 5 of the dove survey suggest that crossover between the two regions is minor; and, when it does occur, it is predominantly from the south to the north.

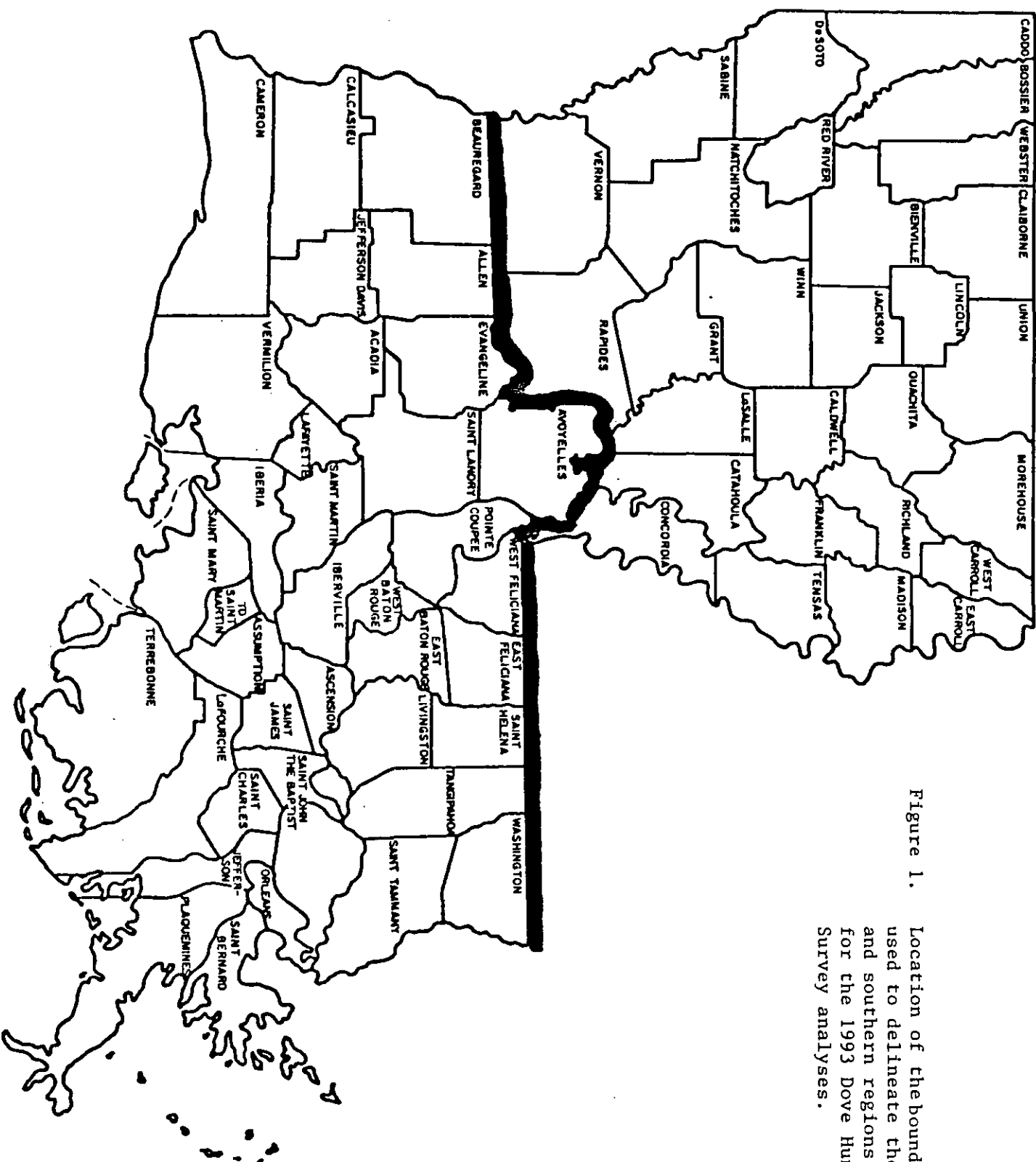


Figure 1. Location of the boundary line used to delineate the northern and southern regions in Louisiana for the 1993 Dove Hunter Opinion Survey analyses.

Table 1. Statewide frequencies and percents of dove hunters responding to the
1993 Dove Hunter Opinion Survey.

Question	Frequency	Percent
<u>Que1</u>		
60-day/15-bird bag	236	43.5
70-day/12-bird bag	306	56.5
<u>Que2</u>		
Shorten Sept. Segment	246	47.4
Shorten Oct./Nov. Segment	60	11.6
Shorten Dec./Jan. Segment	213	41.0
<u>Que3</u>		
70-day with only Labor Day weekend	286	54.4
70-day with Traditional Sept. Segment	240	45.6
<u>Que4</u>		
Compromise hours	161	29.8
All day hunting	193	35.7
Noon to sunset	187	34.6

Table 2. Statewide frequencies and percents of dove hunters responding to the 1993 Dove Hunter Opinion Survey by hunter bag.

Question	Hunter Bag < 25		Hunter Bag > 25	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<u>Que1</u>				
60-day/15-bird bag	131	42.8	105	44.5
70-day/12-bird bag	175	57.2	131	55.5
<u>Que2</u>				
Shorten Sept. Segment	147	50.7	99	43.2
Shorten Oct./Nov. Segment	34	11.7	26	11.4
Shorten Dec./Jan. Segment	109	37.6	104	45.4
<u>Que3</u>				
70-day with only Labor Day weekend	163	55.4	123	53.0
70-day with Traditional Sept. Segment	131	44.6	109	47.0
<u>Que4</u>				
Compromise hours	87	28.4	74	31.5
All day hunting	110	35.9	83	35.3
Noon to sunset	109	35.6	78	33.2

Table 3. Regional frequencies and percents of dove hunters responding to the 1993 Dove Hunter Opinion Survey.

Question	Frequency	Percent
-----Northern Region-----		
<u>Que1</u>		
60-day/15-bird bag	82	67.2
70-day/12-bird bag	40	32.8
<u>Que2</u>		
Shorten Sept. Segment	29	25.0
Shorten Oct./Nov. Segment	23	19.8
Shorten Dec./Jan. Segment	64	55.2
<u>Que3</u>		
70-day with only Labor Day weekend	41	34.7
70-day with Traditional Sept. Segment	77	65.3
<u>Que4</u>		
Compromise hours	42	34.7
All day hunting	47	38.8
Noon to sunset	32	26.4
-----Southern Region-----		
<u>Que1</u>		
60-day/15-bird bag	154	36.7
70-day/12-bird bag	266	63.3
<u>Que2</u>		
Shorten Sept. Segment	217	53.8
Shorten Oct./Nov. Segment	37	9.2
Shorten Dec./Jan. Segment	149	37.0

(Continued)

Table 3. Continued

Question	Frequency	Percent
<u>Que3</u>		
70-day with only Labor Day weekend	245	60.0
70-day with Traditional Sept. Segment	163	40.0
<u>Que4</u>		
Compromise hours	119	28.3
All day hunting	146	34.8
Noon to sunset	155	36.9

Table 4. Regional frequencies and percents of dove hunters responding to the 1993 Dove Hunter Opinion Survey by hunter bag.

Question	Hunter Bag < 25		Hunter Bag > 25	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
-----Northern Region-----				
<u>Que1</u>				
60-day/15-bird bag	45	67.2	37	67.3
70-day/12-bird bag	22	32.8	18	32.7
<u>Que2</u>				
Shorten Sept. Segment	15	23.4	14	26.9
Shorten Oct./Nov. Segment	15	23.4	8	15.4
Shorten Dec./Jan. Segment	34	53.1	30	57.7
<u>Que3</u>				
70-day with only Labor Day weekend	21	32.3	20	37.7
70-day with Traditional Sept. Segment	44	67.7	33	62.3
<u>Que4</u>				
Compromise hours	25	37.3	17	31.5
All day hunting	24	35.8	23	42.6
Noon to sunset	18	26.9	14	25.9
-----Southern Region-----				
<u>Que1</u>				
60-day/15-bird bag	86	36.0	68	37.6
70-day/12-bird bag	153	64.0	113	62.4
<u>Que2</u>				
Shorten Sept. Segment	132	58.4	85	48.0
Shorten Oct./Nov. Segment	19	8.4	18	10.2
Shorten Dec./Jan. Segment	75	33.2	74	41.8

(Continued)

Table 4. Continued

Question	<u>Hunter Bag < 25</u>		<u>Hunter Bag > 25</u>	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<u>Que3</u>				
70-day with only Labor				
Day weekend	142	62.0	103	57.5
70-day with Traditional				
Sept. Segment	87	38.0	76	42.5
<u>Que4</u>				
Compromise hours	62	25.9	57	31.5
All day hunting	86	36.0	60	33.1
Noon to sunset	91	38.1	64	35.4

Appendix 1. Dove hunting federal framework for Louisiana, 1918-1992.

Year	Days	Bag	Possession	Shooting Hours
1918-31	107	25	25	All Day
1932-34	107	18	18	All Day
1935	107	20	20	All Day
1936	76	20	20	All Day
1937-39	76	15	15	All Day
1940	76	12	12	All Day
1941	42	12	12	All Day
1942-43	30	10	10	All Day
1944	57	10	10	All Day
1945-47	60	10	10	All Day
1948	60	10	10	Half Day
1949-53	30	10	10	Half Day
1954	40	10	10	Half Day
1955	45	8	8	Half Day
1956	55	8	8	Half Day
1957	60	10	20	Half Day
1958-59	65	10	20	Half Day
1960-62	70	12	24	Half Day
1963	70	10	20	Half Day
1964-68	70	12	24	Half Day
1969-70	70	18	36	Half Day
1971-79	70	12	24	Half Day
1980-81	70	12	24	All Day
1982	70	12	24	All Day
or	45	15	30	All Day
1983-92	70	12	24	All Day
or	60	15	30	All Day

Appendix 2. Louisiana deviations from the most liberal federal
framework for dove season length and shooting hours.

Year	Deviation
<hr/>	
1983	Compromise shooting hours
1984	Noon to sunset shooting hours
	60-day/15-bird bag limit
1985	Noon to sunset shooting hours
1986-90	Compromise shooting hours
1991	Compromise shooting hours
	60-day/15-bird bag limit
1992	Compromise shooting hours

Appendix 3. Louisiana 1993 Dove Hunter Survey

1. Which dove season length and bag limit would you prefer for the 1993-94 season? (check one)

☐ 60-day season with a 15-bird bag
☐ 70-day season with a 12-bird bag

2. If the shorter 60-day 15-bird season is selected, which would you prefer? (check one)

☐ Shorten the September segment
☐ Shorten the October-November segment
☐ Shorten the December-January segment

3. If the longer 70-day 12 bird season is selected, would you prefer to reduce the traditional 9-day September segment to the first Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (Labor Day) in September and add 6 days to the later segments?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Which shooting-hours regulation would you prefer? (check one)

☐ All day hunting except noon to sunset on opening weekend of each split (current regulations)
☐ All day hunting (1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset) the entire season
☐ Noon to sunset the entire season

5. List the parishes in which you dove hunted last year and your trips and bag

Parish	Dove Trips	Doves Bagged
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6. Additional comments and suggestions for next year's season:

Appendix 4. Mailing and response rates for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 1993 dove survey.

Region	Mailing Rate	Response Rate
N	25.2	22.5
S	74.8	77.5

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-130

5/28/02

AMENDED AGENDA FOR JUNE 6 L.W.F.C. MEETING

The next regular public board meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002. The meeting will be held at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, located at 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. The agenda is as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2002
3. Representative Faucheux - Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session
4. Discussion of Import Restrictions on Foreign Shrimp
5. Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees
6. Enforcement and Aviation Reports (May)
7. Public Information Report for October 2001 through March 2002
8. Public Comments - 2002/03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules and Regulations
9. Ducks Unlimited Progress Report
10. Resolution - Dewey Wills WMA Expansion
11. Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules and Regulations
12. State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session)
13. Set October 2002 Meeting Date
14. Public Comments
15. Adjournment

EDITORS: For more information, contact Thomas Gresham at 225/765-2923
(gresham_tp@wlf.state.la.us).

May 31, 2002

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 6, 2002, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2002
3. Representative Faucheux-Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session
4. Discussion of Import Restrictions on Foreign Shrimp
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6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
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9. Ducks Unlimited Progress Report
10. Resolution - Dewey Wills WMA Expansion
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12. State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session)
13. Set October 2002 Meeting Date
14. Public Comments
15. Adjournment

Added 5/31/2002 by
Don Puckett for Mr. Battle

Discussion of
Import
Restrictions on
Foreign Shrimp

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries VS RELEASE



CONTACT
225/765-2925

5/28/02

2002-126

L.W.F.C. HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, June 6, 2002. The meeting will be held in the fourth floor Conference room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, located at 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., will discuss the upcoming dove season.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 225/765-2925
(burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us).

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-125

5/28/02

L.W.F.C. SETS AGENDA FOR JUNE 6 MEETING

The next regular public board meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002. The meeting will be held at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, located at 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. The agenda is as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2002
3. Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session
4. Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees
5. Enforcement and Aviation Reports (May)
6. Public Information Report for October 2001 through March 2002
7. Public Comments - 2002/03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules and Regulations
8. Ducks Unlimited Progress Report
9. Resolution - Dewey Wills WMA Expansion
10. Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules and Regulations
11. State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session)
12. Set October 2002 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

EDITORS: For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 22/765-2925
(burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us).

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
May 28, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 6, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2002

REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY FAUCHEUX

3. Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session

COMMISSIONER SAGRERA

4. Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees

WINTON VIDRINE

5. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION

6. Report for October 2001 through March 2002

Page 2
Commission Meeting
May 28, 2002

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

7. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations

8. Ducks Unlimited Progress Report

9. Resolution - Dewey Wills WMA Expansion

10. Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules & Regulations

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

(None)

LEGAL SECTION

11. State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session)

12. Set October 2002 Meeting Date

13. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

May 28, 2002

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

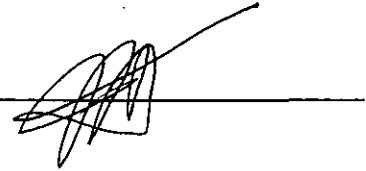
AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 6, 2002, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

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12. Set October 2002 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

May 28, 2002

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned over the line following the word 'APPROVED:'.

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, June 6, 2002, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM, will be to discuss the dove season.

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: Agenda

Date: May 22, 2002

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please call me when you receive this fax. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 6, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2002

REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY FAUCHEUX

. Discussion of Resolutions Passed During the 2002 First Extraordinary Legislative Session

COMMISSIONER SAGRERA

- . 70 Day Dove Season - *removed from agenda per Chairman Gattis and referred to Hunting Regs. Committee Meeting - 9AM on June 6*
- . Discussion of Alligator Program and Tag Fees

WINTON VIDRINE

- . Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION

- . Report for October 2001 through March 2002

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 2002

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates
and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations

. Ducks Unlimited Progress Report

. Resolutions - Dewey Wills, ~~Buckhorn and Red River WMA~~
Expansion *changed by Randy Myers*
5/24/2002 after talking

. Notice of Intent - Coastwide Nutria Control Program Rules
& Regulations *with Fred Whitlock*

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

(none)

LEGAL SECTION

. State of Louisiana et al vs. Professional Engineering
Consultants Corp. et al (Executive Session)

. Set October 2002 Meeting Date

. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

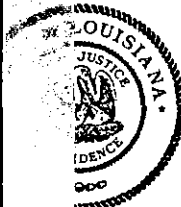
cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2002 2:48 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan; Roussel, John E; Porch, Pat
Subject: No items from Marine Fisheries for June Commission meeting, at this time.

Do Rep. Fauchey
Sta Discuss Resolutions
Pr on WMAs, camps,
re hunting w/ dogs, etc.
Co
(Ex. Talked to Rep.
5/1/2002

Louisiana



Message Letter from Sen
Romero - 70 day dove season
and farmers discussion on
alligator program -
tag fees.

Cathy
Operator

Wildlife & Fisheries
e Box 98000
LA 70898-9000
65-2800
2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

ant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
ice of Fisheries and Confidential



REORDER
#23-000

Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 6, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Friday, May 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, June 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on June 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch
cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett ✓
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

~~DT Presentation~~
Committee on Resident Homes & Bay Levees
Ducks Unlimited Progress Report
Resolutions - Dewey Wills, Buckhorn,
Randy
Meyers
(2) 2002 WMA applications

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
May 1, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 6, 2002

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Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke ✓

*Public Information Section Report
(same item as last meeting)
Can we be moved to the top
of the agenda after Enforcement's
report?*

*Marianne Burke
5-8-02*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
May 1, 2002

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Governor

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Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

Encl. Case Report!
W. V.

State of Louisiana



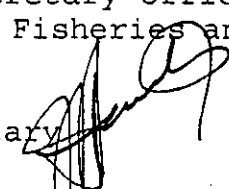
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Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
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May 1, 2002

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Brandt Savoie ✓
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

*Notice of Intent for
Coastwide Nutria Control
Program Rules & Regulations
~~Brandt Savoie~~
Brandt Savoie*

Susan
C. John Roemer

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
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May 1, 2002

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Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

Dear Susan:
I have no wildlife fisheries items for the above agenda.
Bennett

Bennett

State of Louisiana



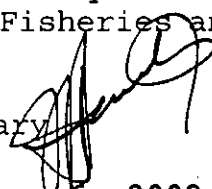
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